

# Shadows In the Bible

## Serpent

This is even better than I imagined. In chapter 1 of Genesis we find God creating. This divine being creates everything. He is meticulous as he orchestrates creation. He then goes on to create humans. God then gives all the creatures to the humans to govern. Beyond that God provided plants and fruit to eat. It is the perfect symbiotic union. There is no strife, hurt, or peril. Just God and his creation.

In chapter 2 the lens focuses in closer to the man and the woman. I never noticed before the last verse. It's an interesting ending to the chapter. *They were naked and felt no shame.* Take a look at Judges 21:25 *"In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes."* I feel they are similar in respect to something is coming. Sometimes a chapter in a story ends with a pretext. I love calling them cliffhangers. Why tell us that they were naked and felt no shame? It's because something is coming. Just like at the end of Judges, things were about to change.

In chapter 3 of Genesis we are introduced to a Serpent. Who is this creature? Actually, it does not imply that this Serpent is a creature from Earth. It says this Serpent was craftier than

those the Lord had made. You could say that this Serpent is just a smarter creature. The cool thing about the Bible is reading it all. Who actually is this Serpent? It's implied that we know him. In Job 1 it says heavenly beings came and presented themselves before God in heaven. I do find it odd that Satan is there in Heaven. Is that this serpent? This creature is totally a shadowy figure in the Bible.

It's also interesting that in Job 26 it says that God cleaned out heaven and pierced the fleeing Serpent. The book of Job may be quite old. Clearly, they knew something about heaven and the Serpent. One of the ways that Bible readers know that Satan, the Devil, and this Serpent are the same person is Revelation 20:2 *"And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."* I suppose it's a tradition or an expectation handed down through time.

There is one more piece I find interesting about this shadowy Serpent. In Luke 10:18 Jesus says *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* Combine that with Revelation 12:7-9 *"Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."*

The Bible writers are pretty clear they believe that the Serpent in Genesis 3 is the Devil. It's fascinating that there was some kind of cosmic war long ago. Jesus clearly says he was there. Why did God create on the earth where the renegade Serpent was? Angels also fell with him, are they demons? Satan is described as an angel of light. He is a very beautiful creature of God. An angel? Who knows? We just don't have a ton of info. This Serpent is a shadow figure in the Bible.