

COVENANT OF THE SERPENT

SUMMARY

The Serpent is a living spirit being who descended to the Garden of Eden after losing her place in heaven. For a full description of events that led up to the appearance of the Serpent in the Garden, please see our paper 'The Origins of Evil'.¹ The Serpent dwelt in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (the righteous Law of God) from which God commanded Adam not to eat. The Serpent had an agenda to take away the rule of the beasts from Adam and to destroy the communion of Adam with God. The Serpent was ever so careful to hide her true intention. She laid a perfect trap for the young naïve talkative Eve. She raised doubts in Eve's mind about the goodness of God and completely hid from Eve's eyes the consequences of disobedience to God. The Serpent was not merely in the tree, she completely covered the tree with her shining deception so Eve was blithely unaware what she was doing. Eve acted on her own judgment based on her attraction to the glorious tree she saw (which was not the true tree at all but an illusion). Eve disobeyed God and rebelled against the authority of her husband in spiritual matters. Eve took the fruit which she also gave to Adam, and the covenant with the Serpent was sealed.

THE KEY IDEA

A covenant is NOT a contract (as we normally think).

A contract is an agreement between identified parties. A contract is a transaction.

A covenant is an agreement that changes the identity of the parties. A covenant is a transformation.

The concept of transforming one's identity is novel to some. Western thinking has moved to the principle of inalienable human rights from birth regardless of age, gender or station in life. This has not always been the case. The foundation of Western civilization is Judeo-Christian belief as taught in the Bible. In the Bible rights and privileges are not the same for all people and vary depending on age, gender, and many other criteria. As we will see, the Bible shows it is possible to change one's identity through covenant. As would be expected, changing one's identity changes one's rights, privileges, and station in life.

THE COVENANT OF THE SERPENT

The Serpent in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil makes a proposition which required Eve to publicly acknowledge and agree (by taking the fruit) that God was:

- a deceiver: "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4)
- one who covers in darkness: "Your eyes shall be opened" (Gen. 3:4)
- one who suppresses humans: "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4)

¹ See page 13.0 FEAR NO EVIL on the website www.biblenumbersforlife.com



Source: www.adam-and-eve.org/

Eve entered into covenant with the Serpent, agreeing to eat the fruit of the tree. She relied on her senses to determine the fruit of the tree was “**good for food, and pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom**” (Gen. 3:6) so she ate it. She also gave to Adam who was with her and he ate it.

At the very moment Adam and Eve entered into covenant with the Serpent, they exited the Covenant of Adam with God. They found themselves transformed but not in the way they expected: they discovered they were naked (the glory of the Lord departed from them); they became fugitives hiding from God’s wrath; and they lost their roles, rights, and privileges which they had when they were in covenant with God.

The covenant transformation:	<u>from life</u> (spiritual communion with God) <u>to death</u> (physical death and spiritual separation from God)
Signs of the covenant:	<u>the tree</u> (a monument) <u>the fruit</u> (a sacred meal)
The new authority / role:	<u>stripped of rule of beasts</u> (that passes to the Serpent)
The new responsibility:	<u>stripped of any responsibility in the Garden</u>
The new privileges / rights:	<u>conviction of sin</u> (knowledge of good and evil)
The new destiny:	<u>eternal punishment</u> (prevented from eating from the tree of life and living forever)