

Judgment of the Sin: Satan (Gen 3:14-15)

The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
 he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen 3:14-15, ESV)

1. The Serpent was judged for his deceitful temptation. Because he speaks, is the Serpent an animal or a person? Personification is giving a non-human object the characteristic of a human being. Take your time to carefully observe the Serpent.

2. Number each consequence of God’s judgment of the serpent. To help you in your study, circle the words “cursed” and “enmity” so that you can focus on understanding their definition. How would you go about searching for their meaning? What do God’s judgment of the serpent mean?

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Teacher Notes

Teacher note:

This passage introduces the student to a literary device called personification.

There are different ways of marking up the biblical text to help one study the Bible. This introduces a method of circling key words and focusing on their definition, which enables an understanding of the passage. It is recommended that you have a Bible dictionary to use as an example and let the student peruse.

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1. The Serpent was judged for his deceitful temptation. Because he speaks, is the Serpent an animal or a person? Personification is giving a non-human object the characteristic of a human being. Take your time to carefully observe the Serpent.

Help the student with his skill of observation:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1, ESV)

The Serpent was more crafty than any other beast that God created.

The Serpent knew what God said.

Ask the student: How do we know that the Serpent is Satan? Help the student learn how to rely on the Bible as the basis for their answer. One method is to use a concordance and look up words / phrases like "Satan deceitful" and see what results:

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44, ESV)

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Cor 11:3, ESV)

Help the student reason from the above information that personification, in this instance, was not a literary device. Instead, the account shows that Satan literally took the shape of a non-human form resembling something snake like.

2. Number each consequence of God's judgment of the serpent. To help you in your study, circle the words "cursed" and "enmity" so that you can focus on understanding their definition. How would you go about searching for their meaning? What do God's judgment of the serpent mean?

Help the student break down a passage into parts to enable an easier approach to understanding a passage. It's okay for the student to make mistakes and take the time to explain how to break down a passage.

The words subject to definition will be challenging to teach a student. Take the time to fully understand the terms so that you can effectively teach the student.

There are three consequences of God's judgment:

1. **cursed** are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;

Teach the student that there are a variety of resources that can help one discover the meaning of words. The best resources are Bible dictionaries that are available as books or a convenient online source (i.e. Biblehub.com, etc.). The best resource is usually a book since many free online references are copyright free publications over 100 years old.

When in the context of God, **cursed** means a sentence of divine condemnation. In contrast to the more common meanings of "to wish evil or injury upon," God's curse is not evil, and His divine condemnation results in His judgment.

In the end, Satan will be imprisoned for 1000 years (Rev 20:1-3), and ultimately removed and tormented forever (Rev 20:10).

2. on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

The snake like serpent will crawl on its belly for its entire life.

3. I will put **enmity** between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

The definition of **enmity** is hostility.

Hostility will exist between him and Eve's descendants, and while Satan and his "offspring" will harass ("bruise his **heel**"), one of the descendants will crush Satan ("bruise your **head**").