

Are Snakes Good?

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent...said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Satan was allowed by the Creator to use the serpent in a unique way, and he spoke to Eve a question that created doubt in what God had clearly said. This is his first step, to cause people to doubt God's Word and His character ("you will be like Him—He's holding something back from you").

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said... Ye shall not surely die...



Satan's next step was to out and out deny what God had clearly said. After he has sown a seed of doubt, he is ready to sow a big lie. He even used the same terminology that God had used, "surely die." Satan is the "father of lies."

The final step of the devil was to offer Eve godhood status, or to deify her. He is still using this bold offer in a belief called Mormonism, which is a system of belief in which people can become "gods" as they follow Mormon teaching. The fact is that we are created by one, all-powerful God and we cannot earn godhood as Satan tempted Eve.



In fact, Satan used the Hebrew word *elohim* which is one of the names of the Creator, but we see a small "g" in "gods." Satan was speaking and holding out to Eve the possibility of becoming like the one true God. If there is more than one god, then neither has all authority! This is why the word 'gods' is not capitalized.

Are snakes Very Good?



If God made everything “very good,” why are there poisonous snakes? OR, why would there be violent snakes? Boa constrictors and pythons kill their prey by wrapping around it to constrict (squeeze) it while other types of snakes (e.g. rattlesnakes, copperheads) use needle-like fangs to inject poison (venom) into the victim before eating it. The video clip (right) shows a Columbian red-tail boa constrictor getting a rat! What is “good” for the snake (its next meal) is not so good for the rat!

Put another way...

If God made everything “very good,” Why do bad things happen?

If there truly is a good and holy God Who is over all and in control of all things, why do bad, even terrible, things happen on earth? That is a very good question! In fact, we had a friend who claimed that he could not believe in a God because of the “bad things” in the world, things such as death and disease. His name was Dendal, and he died claiming to be an atheist. More and more, we need to show that a good and holy Creator exists but that He must judge sin.

Why do bad things happen?

First, “bad things” are a result of our sin against God beginning with the first man, Adam, who disobeyed God’s rule not to eat of the Tree. 1 Corinthians 15:22 ties death (i.e. “bad things”) to the very beginning. Eternal death in hell is referenced in Luke 16 and John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish (i.e. everlasting death), but have everlasting life.”

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Second, our sin against the holy and just Judge, the Creator of all, must be punished. A just judge cannot allow crime to go unpunished. Death, disease, and destruction are all part of the just judgment we all deserve for our sin.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD. (Romans 6:23)



Third, the GOOD NEWS is that our crime against the Creator can be TOTALLY forgiven, IF we come the way the Creator has established. He Himself came to earth as man, the God-man: the LORD Jesus Christ. He allowed sinful men to place Him on the cross and kill him; then He arose victorious over the grave, proving His power as Creator! If we with all our hearts trust His work on the cross for us, we can receive His free gift of salvation!

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)