

# Serpents of desire: Good and evil in the Garden of Eden

## 1. ספר בראשית פרק ב

- (ז) וַיִּצְרָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם אֶת הָאָדָם עֶפְרָר מִן הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפָּיו נְשֵׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה:  
(ח) וַיִּטַּע יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם גֶּן עֵדֶן מִקְדָּם וַיִּשֶׂם שֵׁם אֶת הָאָדָם אָשֶׁר יִצְרָר:  
(ט) וַיִּצְמַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם מִן הָאֲדָמָה כָּל עֵץ נֹחֵמָד לְמַרְאֵה וטוֹב לְמַאֲכָל וְעֵץ הַחַיִּים בְּתוֹךְ הֵגֶן וְעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וְרָע:

## Chapter 2

7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.  
8. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.  
9. And out of the ground made the Lord God every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

## 2. ספר בראשית פרק ב

- (טו) וַיִּקַּח יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם אֶת הָאָדָם וַיִּנְחָהוּ בְּגֵן עֵדֶן לְעִבְדָּה וּלְשִׁמְרָה:  
(טז) וַיִּצְוֵה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם עַל הָאָדָם לֵאמֹר מִכֹּל עֵץ הֵגֶן אָכַל תֵּאָכְלִי: (יז) וּמֵעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וְרָע לֹא תֵאָכְלִי מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת:  
(יח) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם לֹא טוֹב הָיִיתָ הָאָדָם לְבַדּוֹ אֶעֱשֶׂה לּוֹ עֵזֶר כְּגֹדֶד:  
(יט) וַיִּצְרָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם מִן הָאֲדָמָה כָּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה וְאֵת כָּל עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיָּבֵא אֵל הָאָדָם לְרֵאוֹת מַה יִּקְרָא לוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָא לוֹ הָאָדָם נִקְּשׁ חַיָּה הוּא שְׁמוֹ:  
(כ) וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שְׁמוֹת לְכָל הַבְּהֵמָה וּלְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְכָל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה וּלְאָדָם לֹא מָצָא עֵזֶר כְּגֹדֶד:  
(כא) וַיִּפֹּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם תְּרַדְמָה עַל הָאָדָם וַיִּישָׁן וַיִּקַּח אֶחָת מִצְלָע תַּחְתָּנָה:  
(כב) וַיִּבֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם אֶת הַצֶּלַע אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִן הָאָדָם לְאִשָּׁה וַיִּבְאֶהָ אֵל הָאָדָם:  
(כג) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם זֶאת הַפַּעַם עֲצָם מֵעֲצָמֵי וּבָשָׂר מִבָּשָׂרִי לִזְזֹאת יִקְרָא אִשָּׁה כִּי מֵאִישׁ לָקַחָה זֶאת:  
(כד) עַל כֵּן יִדְעוּ אִישׁ אֶת אִבּוֹ וְאֵת אִמּוֹ וְדָבַק בְּאִשְׁתּוֹ וְהָיוּ לְבָשָׂר אֶחָד:  
(כה) וַיְהִי שְׁנֵיהֶם עֲרוּמִים הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְלֹא יִתְבָּשְׂשׁוּ:

## Chapter 2

15. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and to keep it.  
16. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;  
17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.  
18. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help to match him.  
19. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every bird of the air; and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name.  
20. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the bird of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help to match him.  
21. And the Lord God made Adam fall into a deep sleep, and he slept; and He took one from his ribs, and closed up the flesh.  
22. And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her to the man.  
23. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.  
24. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall be one flesh.  
25. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

## 3. ספר בראשית פרק ב

- (כא) וַיִּפֹּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם תְּרַדְמָה עַל הָאָדָם וַיִּישָׁן וַיִּקַּח אֶחָת מִצְלָע תַּחְתָּנָה:  
(כב) וַיִּבֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם אֶת הַצֶּלַע אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִן הָאָדָם לְאִשָּׁה וַיִּבְאֶהָ אֵל הָאָדָם:

## Chapter 2

21. And the Lord God made Adam fall into a deep sleep, and he slept; and He took one from his ribs, and closed up the flesh.  
22. And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her to the man.

## 4. ספר בראשית פרק ג

- (א) וַהֲנַחֵשׁ הָיָה עֲרוּם מִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵל הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם לֹא תֵאָכְלוּ מִכֹּל עֵץ הֵגֶן: (ב) וְהָאִשָּׁה וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֵל הַנְּחָשׁ מִפָּרִי עֵץ הֵגֶן נֵאָכַל: (ג) וּמִפָּרִי הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ הֵגֶן אָמַר אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם לֹא תֵאָכְלוּ מִמֶּנּוּ וְלֹא תִגְעוּ בוֹ פֶן תָּמוּתוּן: (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּחָשׁ אֵל הָאִשָּׁה לֹא מוֹת תָּמוּתוּן: (ה) כִּי יִדְעַתְּ אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּם כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכָלְכֶם מִמֶּנּוּ וַנִּפְקְחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם וְהָיִיתֶם כְּאֵלֵי הַיָּם יִדְעֵי טוֹב וְרָע: (ו) וַתִּקְרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תֹאנָה הוּא לְעֵינַיִם וַנְּחַמְדַּת הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל וַתִּקַּח מִפָּרִיו וַתֵּאָכֵל וַתִּתֵּן גַּם לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּה וַיֵּאָכְלוּ:

## 5. פרק בראשית פרק ג

- (כא) וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים לְאָדָם וּלְאִשְׁתּוֹ כִּתְנוֹת עוֹר וַיַּלְבָּשֵׁם:  
(כב) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאָחַד מִמֶּנּוּ לְדַעַת טוֹב וָרָע וְעַתָּה פֶּן יִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וְלָקַח גַּם מֵעֵץ הַחַיִּים וְאָכַל וְחַי לְעַלְמֵי עוֹלָם:  
(כג) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים מִגֶּן עֵדֶן לֶעֶבֶד אֶת הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִשָּׁם:  
(כד) וַיִּגְרֹשׁ אֶת הָאָדָם וַיִּשְׁכַּן מִקְדָּם לְגֹן עֵדֶן אֶת הַכְּרֻבִים וְאֶת לַהֲטוֹת הַחַרְבַּב הַמְתִּיפֹת לְשָׁמֹר אֶת דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים:

### **Chapter 3**

21. For Adam and for his wife the Lord God made coats of skins, and clothed them.  
22. And the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, what if he puts forth his hand, and takes also from the tree of life, and eats, and lives forever;  
23. And the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from where he was taken.  
24. So he drove out the man; and he placed Kerubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way of the tree of life.

## 6. ספר משלי פרק ג

- (יח) עֵץ חַיִּים הִיא לַמְחַזְקִים בָּהּ וְנֹת מְכִיָּה מֵאֲשֶׁר:  
18. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her; and happy is every one who holds her fast.

## 7. ספר דברים פרק ל

- (טו) רָאֵה נִתְּתִי לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם אֶת הַחַיִּים וְאֶת הַטּוֹב וְאֶת הַמָּוֶת וְאֶת הָרָע:  
(יט) הֵעֵדֹתִי בְכֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ הַחַיִּים וְהַמָּוֶת נִתְּתִי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה וּבְחַרְתָּ בְּחַיִּים לְמַעַן תַּחְיֶה אִתָּה וְזָרַעְךָ:  
15. See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil;  
19. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live;

- (ז) וַתִּפְתָּחְנָה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי עִירְמָם הֵם וַיִּתְּפְרוּ עָלֶיהָ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם חַג רֹת:  
(ח) וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים מִתְּהַלֵּךְ בְּגֶן לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם וַיִּתְחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים בְּתוֹךְ עֵץ הַגֶּן:  
(ט) וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים אֶל הָאָדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אַיֶּכָּה:  
(י) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת קִלְכֶם שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּגֶן נְאִירָא כִּי עִירָם אֲנִי כִּי נִאֲחַבָּא:  
(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הִגִּיד לְךָ כִּי עִירָם אֶתָּה הַמֶּן הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לִבְלֹתִי אֲכָל מִמֶּנּוּ אֲכָלְתָּ:  
(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הוּא נָתַנָּה לִּי מִן הָעֵץ וְאֶכְלָה:  
(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים לְאִשָּׁה מַה זֶּאת עָשִׂיתְּ וְנִתְּ אִמְרַת הָאִשָּׁה הַנִּחַשׁ הַשִּׂיאֲנִי וְאֶכְלָה:  
(יד) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַיָּמִים אֶל הַנֶּחֱשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתְּ זֶאת אַרְוֹר אֶתָּה מְכַל הַבְּהֵמָה וּמְכַל חַיֵּי הַשָּׂדֶה עַל גַּחֲזֵךְ תִּלְךָ וְעַפְרָת אֲכָל כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ:

### **Chapter 3**

1. Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?  
2. And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;  
3. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, you shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.  
4. And the serpent said to the woman, surely you shall not die;  
5. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.  
6. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit, and ate, and gave also to her husband with her; and he ate.  
7. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.  
8. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.  
9. And the Lord God called to Adam, and said to him, Where are you?  
10. And he said, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.  
11. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree, which I commanded you that you should not eat?  
12. And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.  
13. And the Lord God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.  
14. And the Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life;