

Adam and Eve in Genesis

According to the Genesis creation legend: God created mankind in his own image. Then forbid his creation from eating from a tree. However the female, Eve, was tempted by a reptilian Satan to consume a fruit from that tree. As a consequence - humans were banished from heaven to earth.

This ancient narrative forms the basis of the concept of Original Sin advocated by St Paul and many early church fathers. However, Encyclopedia Britannica makes it clear that universal original sin is not highlighted in Genesis or related Hebrew scriptures. It was an early Christian concept invented by contrasting Jesus with Adam.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The story of Adam and Eve in Old Testament Genesis presents a patriarchal narrative where a female becomes the reason for human race's banishment from garden of Eden to earth. The authors of this legend highlighted the importance of why men should be in leadership positions as women (symbolised by Eve) can be tempted by demons. This epic reflects the patriarchal views of ancient society where women were viewed as unfit for leadership and were forbidden from participating in many activities which men were free to do such as education, work and wars. Torah's creation legend highlights the exact sentiment of medieval men towards women who were viewed as inferior, less intelligent and a cause for man's downfall to earth. In contrast to this, the narrative presented in Islam is different where Eve is not the only one who disobeys God instead it is Adam and Eve both who defy the God's order.

- Figure 1 The Garden of Eden with the Fall of Man by Jan Brueghel and Pieter Paul Rubens (accessed 25 June 2025)

-Figure 2 The Rebuke of Adam and Eve by Charles Joseph Natoire (accessed 25 June 2025)

-Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/original-sin> (accessed 25 June 2025)