

### What the Garden of Eden story is NOT about:

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- ) “Original sin”: Hebrew, chattat, for “sin,” is first mentioned at Genesis 4.7, from YHWH to Cain.
- ) Male superiority or female inferiority
- ) Women as “temptress” to men on the one hand or “helper” to men on the other
- ) The snake as “the devil”

### What the Garden of Eden story IS about:

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- ) Humanity’s relationship with God, the earth and each other
- ) A counterstory to Babylon’s Enuma Elish: humans are meant by God to live on the earth, not in imperial cities grounded in surplus agriculture
- ) A sly satire on monarchy and the temptation of “royal wisdom”
- ) An explanation of the relationship between patriarchy and agriculture in the world lived by the first audience of Genesis

### Tensions within the Garden of Eden

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**HOME:** in the “garden” or outside?

**FOOD:** provided by God (gathering fruit) or by human effort (work in the field)

**BUILDING:** God building humans or humans building cities, etc.

**LANGUAGE:** a tool for honest sharing of inner thoughts and feelings or a tool for power over others

**TIME:** focus on the present or on the future?