

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus: An Advent Journey through the Messianic Promises of Genesis
“The Seed of the Woman Will Crush Satan’s Head”
Small Group Follow-up Study for Genesis 3:15

RE-READ

[14] 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. [15] 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.”

RECAP

Here we see three Messianic promises:

First, God will put enmity between Satan and the woman, and between Satan’s offspring and her offspring.

Who are these offspring? The short answer is Christians and non-Christians. In John 8:44, Jesus says, “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 ... I tell [you] the truth [and] you do not believe me.” According to Jesus, unbelievers are of their father the devil. In other words, they’re Satan’s offspring. Now, if *unbelievers* are the offspring of Satan, it only follows that believers would be the offspring of the woman. And Romans chapter 16 and verse 20 bears this out. It says to all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints (cf. Romans 1:7), “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” That’s an echo of Genesis 3:15. If you are a believer, you are among the offspring of the woman.

Second, Satan will bruise Christ’s heel.

While not all snakes in Israel were poisonous, the threat provided by some, in the haste to protect oneself, attached itself to all snakes. As such, an attack by any snake was viewed as a potentially mortal blow. And that—I think—is what we are to see here. Satan will kill Christ. In Revelation 12, we read of how “The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne” (Revelation 12:4-5). Satan was out to kill Christ from the very beginning. And, at Golgotha, he succeeded. Luke tells us that Satan entered Judas Iscariot before Judas went to the chief priests to discuss with them how he might betray Jesus (cf. Luke 22:3-4).

Third, Christ will bruise/crush Satan’s head.

That’s the other half of the picture. When a man with a great boot heel stomps on the head of a snake, he crushes its skull. That man may die of a snake bite but that snake isn’t going to bite anyone else. As hymn writer Isaac Watts puts it,

Lo, by the sons of hell He dies;
But as He hangs ‘twixt earth and skies,
He gives their prince a fatal blow,
And triumphs o’er the powers below!

Jesus’ death was the means by which he triumphed over sin, death, and hell. There, he paid in full for all the sins of those who would trust in him.

RESPOND

1. What caught your attention from Sunday’s sermon? What are you still thinking about/mulling over? What questions did Sunday’s sermon raise that remain unanswered in your mind?
2. What comes to mind when you hear that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet? What does this truth do for you as you consider your ongoing battle with sin?
3. Do you feel an enmity toward the serpent? How can you fan the flame of that hatred?
4. Why is it so important to see Satan behind Jesus’ death?
5. Think, again, of Isaac Watts’ line, “Lo, by the sons of hell He dies; But as He hangs ‘twixt earth and skies, He gives their prince a fatal blow, And triumphs o’er the powers below!” What is the big take home for you here? How does this truth minister to your heart?
6. Given our discussion tonight, how can we be praying for ourselves and for our church?