

I. CHRIST, THE SERPENT CRUSHER: Genesis 3:15

DOCTRINE. Christ will gain ultimate victory over satan and his confederates for the glory of God and the good of His people.

CONTEXT. Right after the fall of man into sin, during the cursing of the serpent. The Lord says these things to the serpent for his condemnation, in front of Adam and Eve for their consolation.

OUTLINE.

- I. Four Truths Revealed in Genesis 3:15.
- II. Eight Ways Christ Came to Crush the Head of the Serpent.
- III. Five Directions for Your Everyday Life.

I. FOUR TRUTHS REVEALED IN GENESIS 3:15.

I) The promise in Genesis 3:15 reveals the mercy of God—as soon as mankind fell into sin, the Lord started preaching the gospel (**Genesis 3:15**).

Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (*seed*) and her offspring (*seed*); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- **Years later, Habakkuk's prayer would be, "In wrath remember mercy"** (Hab. 3:2). The LORD did in Genesis 3:15.
 - **HENRY:** "Here was the dawning of the gospel day. No sooner was the wound given than the remedy was provided and revealed."
- **See the loving-kindness of the Lord toward his people!**
When God's people deserve the hammer of the Law for condemnation, He brings the pillow of the Gospel for salvation. When we beg for the bitterness of Divine Justice, He gives us the sweetness of Divine Gospel.

Q. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? A. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:23).

I) USE THIS TRUTH TO GUIDE YOU IN HOW TO RESPOND WHEN OTHERS SIN.

- **(i) Remember Genesis 3:15 when your neighbor sins, especially against you.** Say to them, "Look at the Lord responding to Adam who

plunged the world into misery by his sin."

- **(ii) Remember Genesis 3:15 when your kids sin.** Say to them, "You need a Savior and you have one!"
- **(iii) Remember Genesis 3:15 when your wife sins.** Say to her, "Look at the Lord in Genesis 3:15 responding to Eve eating the forbidden fruit."
- **(iv) Remember Genesis 3:15 when your husband sins.** Say to him, "Look at the Lord in Genesis 3:15 responding to Adam's passivity in not defending Eve from the serpent."

II) USE THIS TRUTH TO GUIDE YOU IN HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU SIN.

- **Say to yourself,** "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15).

II) The promise in Genesis 3:15 reveals the object of the church's faith from Adam to Abraham (Genesis 3:15)

Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and her offspring (seed); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- **God has never left His people, in any age, without the gospel of Jesus Christ!**

III) The promise of Genesis 3:15 reveals the gospel in seed form (Genesis 3:15)

Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and her offspring (seed); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- **When Christ appears in the flesh and does all His work to redeem His people** (lives without sin, dies for sinners, arises for salvation, and ascends to both advocate and rule) **the gospel is then preached in its Oak Tree form, with all the shadows and figures gone away.** However, in Genesis 3:15, there is the seed form of that same gospel—the same in essence as the Oak Tree.

- **HOPKINS:** "That primitive promise (Gen. 3:15), that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, which lay for many ages under types and figures, at the birth of Christ broke forth into accomplishment.

All those prophecies, all those ceremonial resemblances, which, containing a Saviour in embryo, were in due time matured by the Holy Ghost, until the truth of God gave them all their expected issue in Christ's birth."

(i) **Genesis 3:15** reveals the seed form of the incarnation of Christ to redeem fallen man as our representative.

- **The text says, "her offspring." **not his, not Adam's****

Christ took upon himself our nature, to redeem us as our perfect covenant head!

Hebrews 2:14-15 "14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

(ii) **Genesis 3:15** reveals the seed form of the redemption of Christ purchased by his death.

- "you shall bruise his heel."

(iii) **Genesis 3:15** reveals the conquest of Christ crushing the head of the serpent by His resurrection, ascension, intercession, and return.

- "he shall bruise your head."

IV) The promise in Genesis 3:15 reveals Christ's ultimate victory over Satan, his confederates, and the wickedness that springs from their schemes (Genesis 3:15).

Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and her offspring (seed); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- **That the serpent is Satan himself is evident from Revelation 12:9.**
 - **John calls him** "that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world" (**Rev. 12:9**).
- **That those who are not united to Christ by faith are Satan's confederates or "seed" is evident from John 8:44 and Acts 13:10.**
 - **John 8:44** "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires." **Paul says to Elymas in Acts 13:10**, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?" **then Jesus makes him blind through Paul, and the Proconsul believed.*

II. EIGHT WAYS CHRIST CAME TO CRUSH THE HEAD OF THE SERPENT.

I) Satan is an Oppressor, so Christ came to crush his head by healing His people from demonic oppression (Acts 10:38).

Acts 10:38 "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and *healing all who were oppressed by the devil*, for God was with him."

- **1 John 4:4** 'Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.'

II) Satan is a Liar and Deceiver, so Christ came to crush his head as the Truth (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; John 1:14, 14:6).

John 8:44c "[Satan] does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." **Revelation 12:9** "The deceiver of the whole world."

- **Just as there is no truth in Satan, so there are no lies in Christ—He is full of truth!**
 - **John 1:14** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

BOYS AND GIRLS, truth and lies are a matter of life and death. Lies are like poison. If you tell lies, it is like you are spitting out poison. If you believe lies, it is like you are drinking in poison.

Now, Satan is a liar who spits out poison, and through our sin all of us have believed his lies. The only way you and I can be healed from sin is through truth.

The medicine of truth heals from the poison of lies, and Christ is that truth!

- **John 8:31-32** "31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

III) Satan is a Captor, so Christ came to crush his head by binding him and plundering his house (Selected Scriptures).

(I) **Those who are still enemies of God are in the snare of the devil, being captured by him to do his will** (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

- **2 Timothy 2:25-26** "God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from *the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*"

(II) **Christ came into the world to establish the Kingdom of God by binding Satan and plundering his house** (Lk. 11:20-22).

- **Luke 11:20-22** "20 If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; 22 but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil."

(III) **Christ destroys the kingdom of Satan and advances the Kingdom of grace through the preaching of the gospel** (Lk. 10:17-19).

- This truth is exemplified in Christ sending out of the seventy-two gospel-preachers in Luke 10.
 - **Luke 10:17-19** "17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' 18 And he said to them, '*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*' 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."

BOYS AND GIRLS, imagine a strong man who has God's people tied up and captive in his house. He is stronger than any other man in the world.

Q. If that were you, who could set you free? **A.** Jesus!

Boys and girls, Jesus is the stronger man, the God-man, who binds Satan and sets God's people free from slavery.

IV) Satan is a Tempter, so Christ came to crush his head by breaking the power of sin over His people and provide them a way of escape when tempted (Matthew 4:3).

Matthew 4:3 "*And the tempter came and said to [Christ],*" etc.

- (i) **Christ sets his people free from slavery to sin** (Romans 6:18).
 - **Romans 6:18** "Having been set free from sin, [you] have become slaves of righteousness."
- (ii) **God always gives a way of escape when believers are tempted** (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - **1 Corinthians 10:13** "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

- (iii) **One of the works Christ came into the world to destroy was the habitual practice of sinning** (1 John 3:8).
 - **1 John 3:8** "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*"
- (iv) **In our glorification Christ will destroy even the possibility of sinning, and that truth spurs us on to live holy lives even now** (1 John 3:2-3).
 - **1 John 3:2-3** "When [Christ] appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

V) Satan is a Devourer, so Christ came to be a tender Advocate who binds up the broken hearted (1 Peter 5:8).

1 Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

- (I) **Satan loves to sift people like wheat, by tempting them to despair after they have sinned** (Luke 22:31-32). "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
 - RQ. Can Satan succeed in sifting when Christ is engaged in praying? Can your faith fail while Christ intercedes for you? Never!**
- (II) **Christ loves to bind up the broken hearted, never crushing the bruised reed nor quenching the smoking flax** (Isaiah 61:1; Isaiah 42:3). **Isaiah 61:1:** "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; *he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.*" **Isaiah 42:3:** "A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice."
 - **RQ1.** Are you a bruised reed because of your suffering?
 - **RQ2.** Are you a faintly burning wick because of your sins?
 - **RQ3.** Are you broken hearted because of sadness?

I have good news for you.

Christ loves to bind up the broken hearted, mend the bruised reed, and fan into flame the faintly burning wick.

Look to Christ and all the promises that are yours in Him.

BOYS AND GIRLS, Satan loves to devour God's people, and he is like a ravenous lion. So Christ became a man, and, like Samson, took that lion by the jaws and ripped it apart to defend His people.

VI) Satan is an Accuser, so Christ came to crush his head by dying and rising in order to intercede for His people (Zechariah 3:1; Romans 8:33-34).

Zechariah 3:1 "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him."

- **Romans 8:33-34** "Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

VII) Satan is a Murderer, so Christ came to crush his head by giving life and life abundant (John 8:44b).

John 8:44 "He was a murderer from the beginning."

- **John 10:10** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Christ came to give us life by giving up his life in our place!

- **John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

VIII) Christ will finally and totally crush the head of the serpent one day, at His second coming (Rev. 20:9-10).

Revelation 20:9-10 "And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

- **HENRY:** "Christ baffled Satan's temptations, rescued souls out of his hands, cast him out of the bodies of people, dispossessed the strong man armed, and divided his spoil: by his death, he gave a fatal and incurable blow to the devil's kingdom, a wound to the head of this beast, that can never be healed. As his gospel gets ground, Satan falls (Luke 10:18) and is bound (Rev. 20:2). By his grace, he treads Satan under his people's feet (Rom. 16:20) and will shortly cast him into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). And the devil's perpetual overthrow will be the complete

and everlasting joy and glory of the chosen remnant."

III. NOW LET ME GIVE YOU FIVE DIRECTIONS TO CLOSE.

I) Remember Christ is the Serpent-Crusher, not you (Gen. 3:15).

- The gospel says, "Look to Christ in faith and live!"

It does not say, "Slay the dragon by works and live!"

- **YOU DOUBTING OR WEARY SAINT**, you are a soldier, not the King. You are a saint, not the Savior. You are a child, not the Father. You are a vessel, not the oil. You are a Christian, not the Christ.

- "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

- **UNBELIEVERS**,

You need to be born again.

You need to turn from your sin and trust Christ alone for salvation and be set free from the tyranny of the serpent by the Serpent-Crusher.

You need to be baptized, showing that you belong to Christ.

You need to join the church and walk with the saints all the days of your life.

II) Resist Satan by humble dependance on God (Jm. 4:6-7).

- **James 4:6-7** "'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

III) Labor to stand firm against the schemes of the devil as you wage war against him and his confederates (Eph. 6:11).

- **Ephesians 6:11** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against *the schemes of the devil*."

IV) Labor to be sober-minded and watchful, because Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

- **1 Peter 5:8-9** "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

V) As you wage spiritual war, believer, remember and rest in the fact

that you and I will win with Christ, the serpent crusher.

- **Romans 16:20** "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."
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QUOTES

- **WILHELMUS Á BRAKEL:** "This Person is Christ—the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Mary—who through His death has destroyed the devil (Heb 2:14). God had expounded this matter more clearly to Adam and the holy men after him. Adam remained in the church for nine hundred thirty years. Enoch was a prophet who proclaimed the day of judgment Jude 14-15. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. The content of his preaching was Christ 1 Pet 3:19-21, and he prophesied concerning the calling of the Gentiles after the rejection of the seed of Shem (Gen 9:27). God also instructed and strengthened these believers by faith in the sacrifices of the fruits of the field, clean cattle, and of the firstborn (cf. Gen 4:4; Gen 8:20). Hereby the people acquired knowledge concerning the mysteries of salvation and were led to believe in Christ." — Wilhelmus A Brakel, Vol. 4, Page 376
- **MANTON:** "Doctrine [of Genesis 3:15]. Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman, is at enmity with Satan, and hath entered the lists with him; and though bruised in the conflict, yet he finally overcomes him, and subverts his kingdom."
- **GILL:** "the Messiah, the eminent seed of the woman, should bruise the head of the old serpent the devil, that is, destroy him and all his principalities and powers, break and confound all his schemes, and ruin all his works, crush his whole empire, strip him of his authority and sovereignty, and particularly of his power over death, and his tyranny over the bodies and souls of men; all which was done by Christ, when he became incarnate and suffered and died, Heb 2:14."
- **GILL:** Aristotle describes it: this, as it refers to the devil, may relate to the persecutions of the members of Christ on earth, instigated by Satan, or to some slight trouble he should receive from him in the days of his flesh, by his temptations in the wilderness, and agony with him in the garden; or rather by the heel of Christ is meant his human nature, which is his inferior and lowest nature, and who was in it frequently exposed to the insults, temptations, and persecutions of Satan, and was at last brought to a painful and accursed death; though by dying he got an entire victory over him and all his enemies, and obtained salvation for his people."

- **HENRY:** "Christ's sufferings are continued in the sufferings of the saints for his name. The devil tempts them, casts them into prison, persecutes and slays them, and so bruises the heel of Christ, who is afflicted in their afflictions. But, while the heel is bruised on earth, it is well that the head is safe in heaven."
- **ESV STUDY BIBLE:** "While the present chapter does not explicitly identify the serpent with Satan, such an identification is a legitimate inference and is clearly what the apostle John has in view in Rev. 12:9 and 20:2. The motif of the offspring of the woman is picked up in Gen. 4:25 with the birth of Seth; subsequently, the rest of Genesis traces a single line of Seth's descendants, observing that it will eventually produce a king through whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed (see Introduction: History of Salvation Summary). he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Some interpreters have suggested that by saying "he" and "his," the intended meaning is that one particular offspring is in view. Within the larger biblical framework, this hope comes to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who is clearly presented in the NT as overcoming Satan (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; cf. Matt. 12:29; Mark 1:24; Luke 10:18; John 12:31; 16:11; 1 Cor. 15:24; Col. 2:15), while at the same time being bruised."
- **TRAPP:** "By Satans factors, the poets, divulged that frivolous fable of Hercules, his clubbing down the serpent, and cutting off his many heads. But Christ alone is that stronger man, that, drawing the dragon out of his den, hath cracked his crown, destroyed his works, made him to fall as lightning from the heaven of men's hearts, and "will tread him also under our feet shortly," [Romans 16:1-27] as he hath already done under his own, when "spoiling these principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them on his cross." [Colossians 2:15] As in the mean while, till this be fully done, nibble he may at our heel, but cannot come at our head. Achilles is said to have taken his death by a wound in his heel. But "he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one [the devil] toucheth him not" (John 5:18). . . Christ shall make the broken horns of Satan to be the trumpets of his glory, and the cornets of our joy.
- **THOMAS MANTON:** "The words are dark in comparison of the larger explications of the grace of God by Jesus Christ which were after delivered to the church. Who would look for a great tree in a little seed? Yet the seminal virtue doth afterward diffuse and dilate itself into all those stately and lofty branches in which the fowls of the air do take up their lodging and shelter. So do these few words contain all the articles and mysteries of the christian faith, which are the fountains of our solid peace

and consolation. In the seed of the woman is contained all the doctrine concerning the incarnation of the Son of God ; in the bruising of his heel, his death and sufferings ; in the crushing of the serpent's head, his glorious victory and conquest. As obscure as the words are, an eagle-eyed and discerning faith could pick a great deal of comfort out of them. 'The elders,' mentioned Heb. 11:2, the antediluvian fathers, so famous throughout all ages for their faith and confidence in God, had no other gospel to live upon. Abel, that offered a better sacrifice than Cain; Enoch, that walked with God; Noah, that prepared the ark, did all that they did in the strength and upon the encouragement of this promise."

– **THOMAS MANTON: I. That Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman.**

Q. Why did Christ become the seed of the woman, taking human nature upon himself?

1. That thereby he might be made under the Law, which was given to whole nature of man (Galatians 4:4).
2. That he might in the same nature suffer the penalty and curse of the Law, as well as fulfill the duty of it, and so make satisfaction for our sins, which as God he could not do.
3. That in the same nature which was foiled he might conquer Satan. As a tempter he conquered him hand to hand in a personal conflict, repelling his temptations, (Mat. 4). As a tormentor, and one that had the power of death, so he conquered him by his death on the cross (Heb. 2:4).
4. That he might take compassion of our infirmities, having experimented them in his own person. (Heb. 2:17-18).
5. That he might take possession of heaven for us in our nature (John 14:2-3).
6. That after he had been a sacrifice for sin, and conquered death by his resurrection, he might also triumph over the devil, and lead captivity captive, and give gifts to men in the very act of his ascension into heaven.

II. That Christ is at enmity with Satan, and hath entered into the conflict with him.

III. That in this conflict his heel was wounded, bitten, or bruised by the serpent.

- By way of use, let me press you cheerfully to remember and celebrate this victory of Christ.

[1.] The conqueror is the seed of the woman, or the Son of God incarnate. Oh ! let us bless God for so great a mercy (Luke 1:68-76).

[2.]The manner of overcoming; it is by suffering a shameful, painful, and accursed death (Rev. 1:5-6).

[3.] Who is overcome? The devil (Rev. 12:10-12). O christians ! what will raise your hearts in thanksgiving to God, if not these three arguments

which I have plainly mentioned to you? for the matter needeth no [tedious discourse]. The incarnation of the Son of God, who came as the seed of the woman, that he might free mankind from the power the devil had over them by sin. Then the merit and satisfaction of our Saviour, for he was bruised in his heel. And then the dissolution of Satan's power, and the freeing of mankind out of his hands, either as a tempter or a tormentor.

[4.] The effects of the victory when it is applied to us. I shall mention three

(1.) **Our conversion to God, and the destruction of [sin's rule] in our hearts** (Luke 11:21-22).

(2.) **Remission of sins.** Acts 26:18: 'I am sending you to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified, by faith that is in me.' Col. 1:13-14: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.'

(3.) **Our own personal victory over Satan's temptations.** In part now. 1 John 2:14, 'I have written unto you young men because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.' Fully hereafter: "God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly' (Rom. 16:20).

- **IV. Though Christ's heel was bruised in the conflict, yet it endeth in Satans final overthrow; for his head was crushed, which noteth the subversion of his power and kingdom.**