

“Seed of the Woman”*Christmas Foretold: Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah’s Coming*

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Context:

- Genesis 1 & 2 describe the creation of the universe and everything in it.
- Genesis 3 describes the Fall of mankind into sin and the catastrophic consequences that resulted.
- In response to their rebellion, God pronounces a curse on the serpent (vv. 14-15), the woman (v. 16), and the man (vv. 17-19).
- But there – in the very same moment – he announces the plan of salvation.

Verse 15 is referred to as the *protoevangelium*. It contains:

- the first gospel message
- the first promise of redemption
- the first prophecy about Jesus in the Bible

It encapsulates three truths about the gospel:

I. Continual Conflict

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed...”

Enmity: hostility, animosity, hatred, mutual antagonism.

Seed of the serpent = ungodly offspring.

- Not biological children in the normal sense. Satan doesn’t reproduce.
- Descendants of Adam and Eve who choose to follow Satan in his rebellion against God (cf. John 8:43-44; 1 John 3:8-10).

Seed of the woman = godly offspring.

- Technically, women don’t have “seed” – men do. A very unusual expression.
- Again, not biological children in the ordinary sense.
- Descendants of Eve who share her enmity with the serpent. In other words, men and women of faith in every generation who believe in God.

The seed of the woman ultimately culminates in the person of Jesus Christ.

- The verse moves from Eve’s godly descendants to an individual person.
- The pronoun “he” is third person, masculine, singular.

This verse is the first reference to the virgin birth of Christ. *Jesus is the only human who was not produced by the seed of a man.*

This verse is a record of the “Conflict of the Ages.” It divides all of mankind into two groups: those who believe in God, and those who don’t.

II. Temporary Defeat

“*...you shall bruise him on the heel.*”

This refers prophetically to the crucifixion of Christ. His hands/feet were literally pierced and bruised for us. But Satan’s supposed victory was short-lived.

III. Ultimate Victory

“*...he shall bruise you on the head.*”

Note that both parties are “bruised,” but the location highlights the difference. The bruise on the heel is painful. The bruise on the head is fatal.

Isaiah 53:5 – “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

- When Jesus was crucified, Satan intended it for evil, but God used it for good.
- The instrument of Christ’s death became the means of our salvation.
- Not only did Jesus die for our sin, he rose from the grave and defeated death.
- The cross was God’s death-blow against Satan (Colossians 2:13-15).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Genesis 3:15 contains a lot of “firsts.” Name some of them, and share what they mean to you personally?
2. How does this verse describe the continual conflict that marks human history?
3. Why do Christians believe this verse refers to the incarnation and virgin birth of Jesus?
4. Explain the significance of Christ’s bruised heel and Satan’s bruised head.
5. How did this message help prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas?