

“THE SEED OF WOMAN”

Genesis 3:15



Theme: Hope of salvation was given even before the curse for sin was pronounced upon man.

Introduction: There are times when something has happened, and my mother wants to tell me about it. She'll say "Did you hear about your sister?" When I ask what happened, she has said: "The EMT's told Steve they didn't know whether Deb was going to make it!" I immediately ask: "Is she Okay?!" She'll respond, it happened earlier today, she ..." I'll interrupt and say: "Is she okay?! ... fill in the details once I know!" My mother wants it to be as dramatic for me as it was for those going through it so she wants to tell the story with a suspense held to the end!

God kept us from the suspense by telling us that it will be okay – He would redeem us and free us from the curse of sin – the curse he was about to utter against our first parents. He who knows the end from the beginning assures us that in the end, redemption will provide those who desire it the restoration to a relationship with Him through faith in His Promised One – the Messiah. He is the One we are celebrating today – Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

In our text today, we have the glorious truth that in Christ Jesus the **“Hope of salvation was given even before the curse for sin was pronounced upon man.”**

I. THE PROMISE OF THE SEED

A. THE ANTAGONISM WITHIN THE RACE

1. As God continues to pronounce the judicial consequences of the Fall, He completes the physical condemnation of the serpent and proceeds to the spiritual activity behind the serpent.
2. He states, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman ...”* – clearly indicating that there will exist within posterity of man, a great antagonism between those who will pursue the righteousness of God, and those who will pursue the wickedness fomented by Satan.
3. He characterizes the nature of the struggle as being *“between your seed and her seed”* – cp. *John 8:44; Ephesians 2:2*.
 - a) *This antagonism is part of the will of God to maintain the distinctiveness of the godly – that they are not swallowed up by worldliness.*
 - b) *Satan's entire strategy is to create a “mixed multitude” wherein the godly are seduced by the ungodly – cp. Genesis 6; Balaam & Peor in*

Numbers 31; Solomon; and many others

c) *In addition, the attempts to mingle the “seed” of these two groups results in God’s wrath:*

- (1) Notice that to become a friend of the world is to be at hostility with God – ***James 4:4***.
- (2) From the earliest days, when men have attempted to make peace with the world independently of the world being converted to faith in God, it has resulted in the wrath of God – cp. *Genesis 6:1-5*.

B. THE ANTICIPATION OF THE INCARNATION

1. There is, however, an implication that brings hope to men from the earliest hour – that there will come One who will provide an end to the enmity.
2. This one is called the “*seed*” of woman – cp. ***Galatians 4:4-5***.
3. The prospect of this became the “**desire of women**” – to be the one through whom the promise would come – cp. ***Luke 1:42-48***.
4. This promise is clarified through the Old Testament in anticipation of the fulfillment of this first promise – cp. ***Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2***.
5. This was the promise of a future child who would provide deliverance for the people of God – cp. ***Hebrews 2:14-15***.

II. THE PROMISE OF SUCCESS

A. THE FATALITY OF HIS SUCCESS

1. From referring to the people of God in general, God now refers to an individual who would come – “*... He shall bruise you on the head ...*”
2. The success of this Promised One is assured by God – Satan is informed that He doesn’t stand a chance at all.
3. God pronounces a death sentence – indicating that the struggle between the righteous and unrighteous will be won by the people of God through the work of the Messiah.
4. He will strike a mortal wound on Satan – to utterly defeat him – cp. ***1 John 3:7-8; Colossians 2:15; John 12:31***.
5. This victory was secured completely through the resurrection of Christ, which serves notice to Satan that the ultimate weapon in the struggle (death) has been negated.

- a) *We are now in the process – by the grace of God – of crushing Satan’s head – cp. [Romans 16:20](#).*
 - b) *This is accomplished as we submit to the Holy Spirit - [1 John 4:4; 2:13](#).*
6. Is it any wonder that Satan did all he could to murder Jesus when He was born – cp. [Matthew 2:16](#).

B. THE FINALITY OF HIS SUCCESS

- 1. It will ultimately result in the destruction of Satan himself – as He personally received a mortal blow to the head – cp. [Revelation 20:10](#).
- 2. If the main leader of the godless cannot avoid the condemnation of God upon sin, how shall anyone lesser than he hope to escape – [John 16:11](#).
- 3. Christ will subject all things under His feet – and rule sovereign over all men – cp. [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](#).

III. THE PROMISE OF THE SUFFERING

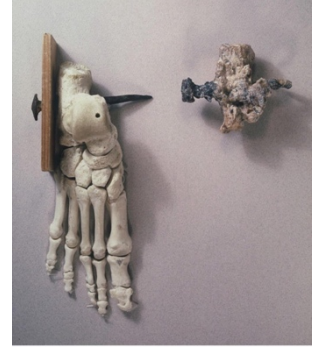
A. THE OCCASION FOR THE SUFFERING

- 1. However, after assuring us that the victory in the age-old struggle between the ungodly and the righteous will be won by the Messiah, God informs us that Satan will have an hour of apparent triumph – “... *and you shall bruise Him on the heel.*”
- 2. In contrast to the mortal head wound that Christ will inflict upon Satan, Satan will wound Christ on the heel.
- 3. This refers to the suffering that will be known by Christ and His people throughout the ages:
 - a) *The affliction of the Hebrews in Egypt.*
 - b) *The periods of oppression in Judges.*
 - c) *The time of exile at the hands of the Assyrians and Babylonians.*
 - d) *The time of occupation by the Romans.*
 - e) *The destruction of Jerusalem.*
 - f) *The period of persecution of the believers throughout the church age – cp. [Acts 9:4](#).*
- 4. These all are ways by which Satan is attempting to stomp on the Head but can only damage the foot – as the Head is safe in glory.
- 5. It all culminated in the crucifixion of Christ when Satan *thought* He had won – that He had inflicted a mortal wound upon the One who was provided to defeat him!

6. There is a potential that this is a veiled reference to the crucifixion as Jesus' feet were impaled through the heel during the crucifixion.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE SUFFERING

1. What is the outcome of this suffering?
2. Even though Satan has been stripped of any hope of victory through Christ, he continues to struggle against God and His people – cp. *Revelation 12:13-17*.
3. We are told that it is by means of His suffering that Christ Jesus provided a way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to God – cp. *Isaiah 53:5, 11*.



So What?

- God's love planned our salvation even before it was needed.
- Our salvation was never about what we would or could do, but about what God would do through the One Promised.
- Throughout the history of sinful men, those who believe God have looked to Him to provide salvation through this Messiah.
- We celebrate Jesus Christ's birth as it signaled the provision of that Promised One and the salvation exclusively available through faith in Him.