



Go for God!

“From the Curse to the Cross!”

GENESIS Chapter 3:14-24

> SIX INSIGHTS TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST:

- INSIGHT #1 - *The Serpent is Cursed!* (v14)

(v14) The serpent’s destiny is the curse to crawl on its belly and to eat dust all the days of your life. Satan, or the Devil, the Tempter, made his approach to Eve by speaking through a serpent, which is described as **“more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made”** (Gen 3:1). Serpents are mentioned under various names (for example, asp, cobra, and viper), and they pose a life-threatening danger to man because of their poisonous bite (Deut 8:15).

- Observe the serpent trail in the Gospels, John the Baptist said in **Matthew 3:7-8** - ***But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,”***

- Jesus said in **Matthew 12:34** - ***Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.***

- Jesus also said in **Matthew 23:33-36** - ***Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.***

- Jesus gave His disciples **“authority to trample on serpents and scorpions”** (Luke 10:19). Barnes writes, “The meaning of this verse is, that Jesus would preserve them from the power of Satan and all his emissaries—from all wicked and crafty men; and this shows that he had divine power. He that can control Satan and his hosts that can be present to guard from all their machinations, see all their plans, and destroy all their designs, must be clothed with no less than almighty power.” (cp. Luke 11:12; Ezekiel 2:6)

- INSIGHT #2 - *The Seeds are at War!* (v15)

(v15) There’s a battle, **enmity** (*deep-seated animosity or hatred*) between Satan’s seed—unbelievers and the woman’s promised seed of believers. The woman’s promised seed (the Messiah, Jesus Christ) will be **bruised** (suffer), but Satan’s head will be **crushed - broken into pieces**, Satan will ultimately be defeated - **Revelation 20:10** - ***The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

- Jesus speaks of the enemy, Satan sowing **ungodly seeds** throughout the world - **Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43.**

- We are told in **Romans 16:17-20** - ***Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.***

- The prophet Isaiah used the taming of the serpent to describe the peace that will prevail in the **Messianic Kingdom** - **Isaiah 11:8** - ***The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. Isaiah 65:25*** - ***The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.***

- INSIGHT #3 - The Struggles of the Woman! (v16)

(v16) The woman will have pain in childbirth; as John MacArthur gives an excellent explanation in regards to ***"your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you"*** – "The man and the woman will face struggles in their own relationship. Sin turned the harmonious system of God-ordained roles into distasteful struggles of self-will. Lifelong companions, husbands and wives, will need God's help in getting along as a result. The woman's desire will be to lord it over her husband, but the husband will rule by divine design."

- The Holy Spirit teaches women about submission in 1 Tim 2:11-15; and in 1 Peter 3:1 - *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives.*" Whereas, the husbands leadership is not authoritarianism, but rather a loving service to his wife and children - Ephesians 5:17-24.

- INSIGHT #4 - The Sweat of the Man! (v17-19)

(v17-19) For Adam, no more "Garden of Eden," but rather *thorns and thistles, labor and sweat for food and the ultimate tragedy death physically, and spiritual separation from God.* The reason given for the curse on the ground and human death is man's rejection and disobedience to God. Man, by sin, became mortal. Adam did not die the moment he ate (by God's mercy); he was changed immediately and became liable to all the sufferings and miseries of life, to death, and to the pains of hell forever. Adam lived 930 years (5:5).

- The Scripture declares that Man is to work - 2 Thessalonians 3:10 - *For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."* Colossians 3:23-25 - *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

- In regards to death let's find hope in **Romans 5:12-21.**

- INSIGHT #5 - The Sacrifice of God! (v20-21)

(v20-21) Here we see the first animal sacrifice for the covering of man's sin, pointing to the *Lamb of God* to take away our sin (John 1:29). In Genesis 22:8- *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.* We also see *Passover Lamb* in Exodus ch. 12.

- Paul yields further insight in **1 Corinthians 15:20-58.**

- INSIGHT #6 - Man's Sin—God's Salvation! (v22-24)

(v22-24) God protects man for salvation to keep him from eating the *tree of life* and living perpetually with sin and without hope. (*Cherubim* - winged angelic beings, often associated with worship and praise of God. According to the prophets, cherubim belong to the category of unfallen angels; at one time, however, Satan or Lucifer was a cherub (Ezek 28:14,16), until he rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-19).)

- John promised that the day is coming when ***"there shall be no more curse"*** (Rev 22:3); all those whose names are written in the *Lamb's Book of Life* (Rev. 21:27) will enjoy the abundant blessings of God!