

## THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

Genesis 3:14, 15

**Intro:** As we again approach the Christmas season, I am going to be speaking on several passages of Scripture which have to do with the first coming of the Son of God into this world. When I say this, I am thinking about tonight and next Sunday night, as well as three Sunday mornings beginning with December 17.

The earliest reference we have to the first coming of Christ is in Gen. 3:15. These words were spoken by the Lord God to the serpent. You can see this by tracing the beginning of the quotation back to verse 14. I don't think there is any question as to who the serpent was, but if we need any proof from Scripture, we have it in the last book of the Bible, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, chapter 12, verse 9, which reads,

And the great dragon was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The Devil started out in the world by deceiving Eve, and that has been, and will be, the chief characteristic of his work until the very end. But here, early in Scripture, we are told that it is through the seed of the woman that the Devil will finally be destroyed.

Actually the Lord God in verse 15 referred to both the birth of Christ and to His death. We have a reference to His birth in the words, "her seed," speaking of the seed of the woman; the death of the Lord Jesus is to be found in the words, "it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The Seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head, but the serpent would only be able to bruise the heel of the woman's Seed.

For those who may not understand, the word "seed" means a child, an offspring, a descendant. A woman's seed is her family. A man's seed is his family.

The Hebrew word which is translated "bruise" is capable of more than one translation. It can mean to bruise, or to scrape, or to crush, or to dash in pieces, or even to injure by rubbing. In one of the leading Hebrew lexicons, this is the suggested translation: "*He shall crush thee as to the head, and thou shalt bruise him as to the heel*" (Gesenius, p. 1045). The difference between a bruised serpent's head and a bruised man's heel shows that a different translation is merited. This statement describes the

conflict of the ages, not just a conflict between human beings and the Devil, but a conflict between the Lord and the Devil. And here, early in Scripture, we learn that the Seed of the Woman is to be the ultimate Victor. The Devil did incalculable damage to the human race when he seduced and deceived Eve, although the race was not condemned until Adam sinned. Yet the door was open, and the Devil was very clever to approach Adam through Eve.

I have mentioned many times that the revelation of truth in the Scriptures is progressive. That is, God begins often with just a brief reference to a truth, and then as we go on through the Bible we learn more and more until, with the completion of the NT we have all that God has intended to reveal. What we want to know beyond what is revealed in the Word of God, we must wait until we get to heaven to learn. But the Bible contains all that God intends for us to know now -- and, even at that, none of us will ever understand all that there is in the Bible.

Now we should notice that the Lord God said to the Devil that it would be the seed of the woman that would bruise, or crush, the Devil's head. What this meant to Eve, we cannot tell, but we must assume that to some degree she understood the words of the Lord. The downfall of the human race into sin had come about through the sin of a woman; the redemption of the race would also come about through the woman.

Now let us look at other passages of Scripture which throw light on what the Lord God said to the Devil.

### **I. ISAIAH 7:14.**

Please turn to this passage although I am sure all of you are acquainted with it. This is what it says:

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

I am just reading the last part of the verse because it is the prophecy which helps us to understand Gen. 3:15. The Lord was speaking to King Ahaz of Judah, and, without going into the details of the circumstances then, the Lord told Ahaz to ask for a sign from Him. Ahaz refused, and so the Lord said that He would give Ahaz a sign -- and this was it!

Commentators have argued all through history about whether or not the word translated "virgin" in Isa. 7:14 meant a virgin, or did it mean a young married woman. That question is answered once and for all when

we look at another passage where Isa. 7:14 is quoted in the NT. So now please turn to Matt. 1:22, 23.

## II. MATTHEW 1:21, 22.

This is what these verses tell us:

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

What was the situation in Matthew 1?

Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary. But before their marriage was consummated, he learns that she was pregnant, and was going to have a baby. He could only come to one conclusion as unbelievable as it was to him: Mary had been unfaithful to him, and had committed adultery.

By law, if this were true, she should have been stoned. But even in his grief he loved her too much to do that, and so he planned to break their engagement as quietly as he could without causing her any disgrace. Just as that time the angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife because, as the angel said in verse 20, “that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” He went on to tell Joseph that Mary was going to have a Son, that His Name was to be JESUS “for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). And then Matthew, speaking under the direction of that same Holy Spirit, said, “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,” and then Matthew quoted Isaiah 7:14. And the Holy Spirit identified that “virgin” about whom the Lord spoke to Ahaz, as the virgin Mary!

Now we can understand why the Lord God in speaking to the Devil spoke of his Adversary as the seed of the woman. The Lord Jesus Christ did not have a human father. He had a human mother, and that is how He became a human being. But He had no human father. If JESUS had had a human father, he would have been a sinner just like we are, and would not have been able to save us from our sins. How accurate are the words of Scripture!

What can we conclude from this episode in the life of Joseph who was

engaged to wed the virgin Mary. We have to conclude that the Holy Spirit convinced him by what he knew of Isaiah's prophecy that the virgin Mary was not guilty of adultery, but that at last the long-awaited Messiah and Redeemer was about to be born.

But let me take you to a third Scripture. This one has to do with Mary herself. Please turn to Luke 1 where we are told how the angel Gabriel came to Mary before she and Joseph were married. Obviously this preceded the angel's appeared to Joseph which we have just considered.

### **III. LUKE 1:26-38.**

Gabriel's appearance to Mary came in the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy. He told Mary that she was highly favored by the Lord, and that something very wonderful was going to happen to her. Listen to his words in Luke 1:31:

Luke 1:31

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He continued by speaking about the ministry that her Son would have. She very reasonably asked how this could be since she was not married. And Gabriel responded in this way:

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

And after referring to what had happened to Elisabeth who was having a child, a son, in her old age, Gabriel assured Mary that nothing was impossible with God. And it was at that point that Mary responded by saying, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).

Does it seem impossible that Mary also knew about Isaiah 7:14, and that she was looking for the promised Messiah, little knowing that she would be His mother? Obviously God enabled her to believe that the unbelievable would happen to her. She would be the human mother of the eternal Son of God. How amazing!

Now let me take you to one more passage:

### **IV. GALATIANS 4:4, 5.**

Here you will find these words:

- 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, **made of a woman**, made under the law,  
5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

There was never any question in the minds of the writers of Scripture but that our Lord was the seed of the woman, the only Person ever born into this world without a human father. He was God in human flesh, perfect God and perfect Man. Thus, He was not a sinner, and could act as our Savior.

In Rom. 8:3 Paul said that God sent His Son “in the likeness of sinful flesh,” but not in sinful flesh. And there is a great difference.

But now let me say a word about:

## **V. THE SERPENT’S SEED.**

The Lord God predicted an age-long enmity between the seed of the woman, Whom we now know to be our Lord Jesus Christ, and the seed of the serpent. Who is the serpent’s seed?

One thing you learn when you study the word seed in Scripture is that even in its singular form it can refer to a single person, as in the case of our Lord Jesus Christ, or it can be plural.

Man’s enmity against the Lord Jesus Christ has been apparent from the beginning, but it reached its highest intensity when Christ was born, and ever afterwards. Did not the people of Israel stone the prophets who were sent to them? Did not Herod seek to kill the baby Jesus? Were not the scribes and Pharisees doing everything they could to find some accusation that they could bring against the Lord so that they could put Him to death? And the Lord said to the Jews, the Jewish leaders, who were so opposed to Him,

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44).

I want to bring up one more point having to do with our text:

## VI. THE BRUISING OF OUR LORD'S FEET; THE CRUSHING OF THE DEVIL'S HEAD.

This was the prediction that the Lord God gave to the Devil in pronouncing judgment upon him. Has this happened? If not, when will it happen? Let us turn to Scripture for our answer.

Please turn to Hebrews 2. Later this month I want to deal with the latter part of this chapter in three messages dealing with the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Tonight I must refer to the second of the three. Please turn to Hebrews 2 and follow me as I read verses 14 and 15:

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death** he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Notice those words, "through death." This means that at the Cross the Lord defeated the Devil forever, and that the Cross, among other things, was the place where the Devil bruised our Lord's heel.

The Devil is still given his freedom. He knows that his time is short, and he is doing everything he can to destroy the work of the Lord, and to destroy as many human souls as he can. But the Lord is the Victor, a victory which was won at the Cross. So the outcome of this conflict of the ages is not in doubt. It has already been settled by our Lord in His death and resurrection, and will finally be consummated when the Devil and his angels are cast forever into the lake of fire.

**Concl:** Before I close let me say a word about our Lord's heel. The prediction is that the Devil would bruise His heel. What are we to learn from this?

Do you remember that when Esau and Jacob were born, Jacob had a hold of Esau's heel? And he was named Jacob which mean a heel-catcher. And when Esau had been "supplanted" (Gen. 27:36) two times, he said that he had rightly been named, Jacob.

The Devil is a heel-catcher and a heel-bruise. Look at a football game and you will see a field full of heel-catchers. It means to trip a person up, and usually in the Devil's case it means deceit. The Devil tried to catch

the Lord's heel at the temptation. That would have meant victory for the Devil, and there would have been no salvation -- if such a thing had been possible. But the Lord overcame Him by the Word of God.

The Devil did succeed in getting the Lord condemned and crucified, but only because it was in the plan and purpose of God for our salvation. And as terrible as the Cross was for our Lord Jesus Christ, it was only a bruising of His heel compared with the eternal doom that was sealed at the Cross for the Devil.

How thankful we can be for the sovereign power of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Much was accomplished at the Cross, but one thing that we can be eternally thankful for is that not only did the Lord get the victory over the Devil, but there He won our victory over the Enemy, too. Thus, Gen. 3:15 has been proven true. Our Lord is glorified, and we have redemption through His blood which includes deliverance from sin's penalty, sin's power, and from the Devil himself.