

Building on Biblical Foundations Genesis 3:15

“Declaring the End from the Beginning”

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“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15 KJV

Here is a big word to start our morning: **protevangelium**. This is a compound of two Greek words,

**Protos meaning "first" and
Evangelion meaning "good news" or "gospel"**

Therefore, Genesis 3:15 is known as the first gospel. Why? We will get into that shortly. First let's dive into this declaration by God.

First let's read a little before this declaration is announced to remind us of where we left off last week. As you may remember last week we discussed the temptation by and surrender to the Satan (disguised as a serpent) of Eve and then Adam.

It did not take long for God to find Adam in the garden hiding. When God confronted Adam and Eve they played the blame game. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.

This brings us to today's verse. Genesis 3:15. And it will take us all morning to examine this one verse.

In this one verse is both the declaration of war, and it's ultimate resolve.

In this one verse we are given information that helps us understand the nature of our world, the substance and basis for global, historical conflict and the hope of reconciliation and triumph. That's a whole lot packed into one tiny verse. Isn't it?

Back to Protevangelion – the first gospel. This is the very first time we encounter the prophecy of a Messiah. It is here that God first speaks of HIS plan for redemption of the human race. From the Garden of Eden God has already devised a way to restore humanity to himself. Of course he did. There is nothing that takes God by surprise. He knew the temptation would exist. He knew Adam and Eve would be deceived and He knew it come through Satan. Let's take that a bit further. . .

He knew Jesus would be born, he knew he would die on the cross and he knew when Jesus was resurrected that this curse would be broken, and humanity would once again be free to choose him – just like in the beginning.

You see God knew the end from the beginning and in Genesis 3:15, he declares it.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman,”

God is the “I” speaking to the serpent (Satan) “you”. The woman is Eve – who Adam calls the mother of all living.

What is enmity?

Ebah: Hebrew which means hostility or hatred.

God will put hatred between Satan and Eve. War is proclaimed between the Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. And this war is proclaimed by God Himself.

“And between thy seed and her seed.”

What is meant by seed?

Zera: Hebrew for seed, most scholars agree this means child, progeny, offspring.

So who or what is the seed of Satan and who or what is the seed of Eve?

It is agreed that this seed is both singular and plural, meaning that it represents one and many simultaneously.

The seed of the serpent:

- (1.) Those who are his spiritual offspring – those who do his bidding
- (2.) Some say these are the unredeemed sons of Adam – beginning with Cain (who murdered his brother). This includes those who willfully oppose God. Jesus called the Pharisees children of the Devil (John 8:44)
- (3.) This may also include fallen angels, demons and other agents of Satan.
- (4.) These are NOT physical descendants of Satan – there is nothing in scripture to support the premise that Satan as physical offspring.

The Seed of the woman:

- (1.) In the plurality, the seed may represent all of humanity.
- (2.) The seed may represent those who align their hearts with God – Eve speaks this of Seth who replaces Cain. “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed” (Genesis 4:25).
- (3.) Jesus – the ultimate seed that was to come from a woman. Most agree the seed of woman has its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

So we see here that a “perpetual quarrel is here commenced between the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of the devil among men; war proclaimed between the seed of the woman, and the seed of the serpent, Rev 12:7” *John Wesley’s Commentary on Genesis 3:15*

What is the result of this hostility?

- (1.) Conflict between the righteous of God and Satan that will never be reconciled.
- (2.) Ongoing struggle between good and evil, darkness and light.
- (3.) Hatred and malice toward the family of God from those who have aligned themselves with the schemes of Satan, sons of the devil.
- (4.) War between the saints and the world.
- (5.) There is continual warfare between grace and corruption, in the hearts of God's people.
- (6.) Heaven and hell can never be reconciled, nor light and darkness; nor Satan and a redeemed soul.
- (7.) There will be a continual struggle between the wicked and the godly in this world.

This is the spiritual warfare we encounter as believers. . . this is what Paul spoke of in Ephesians 6.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” NIV

And what are we to do against these forces:

That too we find in Ephesians 6:13

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” NIV

We put on the armor of God – found in Ephesians 6:11-17 and we take our stand.

But wait . . . that is not the end of the story, this is just what we do while the end is being played out.

Satan is a defeated foe. His fate is sealed: “And the devil . . . was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur” (Revelation 20:10). However, until then, there will be hostility between him and the people of God.

“It shall bruise thy head, and thy shall bruise his heel.”

Here we shift from the plural seed to the singular seed; from many to one. This begins as a battle between the forces of evil and the champions of God, but ends between just two: Jesus and Satan.

“It shall bruise thy head. . .”

The word here for “it” can be translated as “he.” He is indeed Jesus.

Shuph (shoop): Hebrew means to bruise, overwhelm

The seed of the woman - Jesus - will bruise the head of Satan. What does that mean?

This is a fatal blow. The bruise to Satan’s head is a mortal injury, a wound that will destroy him.

This begins at the cross where Satan is defeated by Jesus’ sacrifice – a sacrifice borne out of love for humanity and obedience to the father.

- Where Adam and Eve disobeyed – Jesus obeyed.
- Where Adam and Eve rejected God’s love and fellowship - Jesus – by His love for God the Father and for mankind – restores that broken fellowship
- Jesus said:

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out (John 12:31).

But there is more. . .

When Christ eventually returns to the earth, He will bind Satan and place him in the pit (Revelation 20:1-4).

This Ends in the Lake of Fire:

“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet.” Romans 16:20

Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:7-10).

“⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

“and thy shall bruise his heel.”

Satan will bruise the heel of Jesus – this is not a fatal wound. This is an injury, but one from which Jesus rises in victory.

This too happens on the CROSS.

It is on the cross that Jesus suffers for humanity. He is physically abused, and succumbs with his very life. BUT. . . he overcomes. This bruise is an injury to a non-essential body part. . . a heel. This does not defeat Jesus.

On the contrary . . .

At the cross Jesus took all of the sins of the world, the rebellion, the disobedience, the rejection, the punishment, the chastisement, the penalty – the judgment of humanity and in that moment – when death covered our Lord – Satan thought he had won.

But – when Jesus arose from the dead, Satan was defeated forever! He lost his grip on humanity. The sins of mankind were forgiven. His overcoming is what delivers the mortal wound to Satan. It is this sudden plot twist that changes everything.

One final thought . . .

As Eve introduced rebellion to humanity, it is through Eve that humanity is redeemed . . . through her seed. . . which was Jesus. And once again we see the Lord complete what was begun in the garden.

With the defeat of Satan, the perfection of creation will be restored. All things will be returned to what they should have been.

Every person has the opportunity to be restored to the Lord. Every person has the choice to be on God's team.

The Superbowl is today. Today two teams will contend for victory. Only one will leave with the prize. We don't know which one that is.

The spiritual battle can be compared to that game – however – with a few distinctions.

SUPERBOWL SIMILARITIES:

There are two teams:

- God's team and Satan's team.
- Jesus people and worldly people.
- Faithful followers and hypocritical Pharisees.

There is only one winner

Two teams just like the super bowl – one winner just like the superbowl.

SUPERBOWL DIFFERENCES:

There are:

- no cheerleaders,
- no bench
- no sidelines,
- no fans,
- no sportscasters,
- no viewers,
- no half time showmen.

There are ONLY players.

And here is the kicker. . . if you do not choose to be on God's team, you ARE on the other side. That is the default position.

Oh yeah and there is one more thing . . . unlike the Superbowl . . . we already know who wins.

GOD

So today if you are not sure, if you have never thought about it that way. If you thought being in the stands was good enough, or watching from the bench, or cheering as the game goes by . . . today is the day to get in the game. Make a declaration to be on God's team. Ask him where he wants you.

Before you were born God had a plan. A plan to deliver you from sin, and the eternal separation that sin brought. His plan was Jesus.

In the time line of history I do believe we are getting close to that final game. Look around. The signs of the times speak for themselves. Today the Lord stands at the door and knocks. Open the door to Him and allow him to come in to dine with you. He holds the key to eternal life. And he welcomes you in. But if you are in, you need to be all in. No bench warming on this team.

I invite you to pray.

- Ask God to forgive of your rebellion, your desire to rule over yourself, and your rejection of his love for you.
- Then accept that Jesus has already paid the price that you could never pay yourself.
- He did that when he died on the cross. And when he rose up from the dead it was finished.
- Your redemption – your eternal salvation - has been purchased with his blood.
- With that one final act, Satan was defeated forever. With that one act, all of humanity was restored.

- Now all that is left is to choose better than Adam and Eve.
- Choose God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to live in you and guide you all the days of your life.

If you just prayed this prayer, welcome to the family of God! If you don't own a bible, contact us at Riverside Community Church and we will get you one. And if you don't already have a home church, we invite you to join us here in Clifton, Tennessee. We are building a family of believers.

Next week we will learn about what happened when Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden.

For some great study resources check this website out . . .

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelos/article/the-messianic-hope-of-genesis-the-protogospel-and-patriarchal-promises/>