

There is Always Victory in Jesus

The First Gospel Message

Genesis 3:8-15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15

This verse 15 is known as the first gospel message in the Bible.

God is Always in Control *"I will put enmity between you and the woman..."* There are two opposing spiritual forces at work in this world, "the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent," good and evil. As a result of man's disobedience to God, God orchestrates a hatred and division between "between your offspring and her offspring..." in order to mercifully deliver His redemptive plan to all of mankind. God is always in control. See this picture, man has messed up and deserves punishment, yet God provides forgiveness through a closer relationship with Him.

"I" is God, and He is referring to Satan in the phrase "between you and the woman." The plan for the cross has always been. Do you think that God was surprised when man messed up? No, He knew that the greatest way to display His love was to come in the form of man, to live a perfect life, to be unfairly charged, and to die the death that we deserve of a cross for the forgiveness of sin.

There are Only Two Choices *"and between your offspring and her offspring;"* There are only two categories of humanity, the redeemed, those who love God through a relationship with Jesus Christ, and those who love self, the unsaved. DL Moody used to say: "that people are either lost or saved, there is no other category of mankind." Listen to 1 John 3:8-10 as John conveys this exact thought: *"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother."*

The rest of Genesis traces the woman's offspring beginning with Eve's son Seth, and ending with the sons of Jacob which ultimately show the clear line of descendants that lead to Jesus Christ, the Savior. You can choose life or death, by choosing Christ or self. Which will it be?

Our Sacrifice Had to Suffer *"he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* God provided a way of atonement throughout the history of mankind. We see in Genesis 3 that once man knew they were naked as a result of disobedience, He killed the animal to provide covering for their nakedness. There must be a blood sacrifice for the removal of sin. God rigged

this for our good and His glory. The Savior suffered so that we would not have to suffer the ultimate death but can have life as a result of the Savior's sacrifice. If we suffer, as Paul shares, it's but for a moment in comparison to eternity, and it's suffering for the sake of Christ. There is no greater honor than to wear His badge of honor! This typology of Christ is seen clearly with a prophecy from Isaiah 53:10 *"Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."* Jesus affirms this in Luke 24:25-26 *"and he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"*

The Redeemer is Always Victorious *"he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* You may not believe me when I tell you this, but TV wrestling is not real! Sometimes the villain appears to be winning, that makes a great redneck soap opera. The wrestlers are part of an actors' guild, meaning that a script is written, the winner is already known. Christ has already won the victory at the cross, providing forgiveness of sins, and conquering death for all who have and will place faith in Him for eternal life. Listen to Colossians 2:13-15 *"bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."*

Paul shares this same reality in Romans 16:20 *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."*

Revelation 12:7-11 *"Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."*