

“CRUSHING THE SERPENT’S HEAD”
THE CURSE UPON THE SERPENT: Genesis 3:14-15
Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

This means war! The **“Conflict of the Ages”** has now begun—the conflict between God and Satan, the serpent and the woman, truth and error, righteousness and unrighteousness. This battle is the most serious one being fought; it is often largely invisible to the human eye, but frequently manifests itself in world events and even in individual human experiences.

This battle began in the garden as indicated in the passage before us today, but it came to its ultimate climax at the cross of Christ where the victory was won for truth and righteousness, where the forces of Satan, both angelic and human were defeated. It is only a matter of time now until this victory is fully implemented in the world and fully manifested in the lives of all those who are on the side of truth and righteousness. How we eagerly anticipate the manifestation of that full victory!

Paul alluded to this passage in Genesis when he said, “And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” How we look forward to the Second Coming of Christ when the full effects of the victory won on the cross will be fully carried out!

BE OF GOOD CHEER, BRETHREN, FOR “THE GOD OF PEACE WILL SOON CRUSH SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET.

I. HUMILIATION AND DEFEAT (14)

- Satan was the one really cursed—therefore, no direct question to the serpent.
 - Verse 14 mainly concerns the serpent, but even here the satanic agent is under consideration.
 - Verse 15 mainly concerns Satan, though the serpent is still under consideration.
- A. Why was the serpent cursed? [He’s just an animal!]
1. The main emphasis is upon the defeat and humiliation of Satan.
 2. But, the serpent was used for man’s injury and must be punished according to Biblical principle.
 - Gen. 9:5; Ex. 21:28—a beast injuring man is killed.
 - Lev. 20:15-16—A beast participating with man in unnatural sin is killed.
 - Beasts are to remain subservient to man and not be injurious to him.
- B. Were the cattle and wild animals cursed also [see 3:1]?
- The serpent is exclusively picked out for a curse
 - Creation is subject to vanity and corruption—not due to its own fault and not its own curse but because of man (Rom. 8:20-21).
1. “Going on your belly”—creeping (Lev. 11:42)—sign of deep degradation
 2. “Eating dust”—not as its actual food; also implies humiliation & defeat (Mic. 7:17; Is. 49:23)
 3. Perpetual nature of the curse: “all the days of your life”
 - See Is. 65:25—even in the millennium.
 - Represents the fate of Satan—Rev. 20:3
 - It is obvious that the serpent is still under a curse

BUT EVEN IN THE CURSE OF THE SERPENT, GOD REVEALED THE HOPE OF SALVATION (v. 15).

II. ENMITY AND UTTER DEFEAT (15)—The **“Protevangelium”**

- The Gospel in the midst of the Curse!
- Salvation is by **grace**—God saves for His own sake—Ezek. 26:22-23.
- Through the same human nature exposed to trial, victory is won over Satan.

- Satan likely thought that he had been victorious—now the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4).
- God takes the initiative—“I will put enmity.”
- Man will become opposed to Satan; enmity against Satan is a virtue.

A. Wrong View—Men win out over serpents

- Such is too trite and too obvious.
- Besides, man would win over animals by virtue of the creation order.

B. Right View

1. The Curse determines man’s victory and supremacy—same curse as caused the serpent to crawl.
2. “Enmity” is first in the sentence for emphasis—can’t be used for “dumb beasts”—only for morally responsible agents.
3. Such enmity is mentioned in legends and mythologies and even in “signs of the Zodiac.”
4. The woman is mentioned as the one first attacked by Satan; she brings his downfall.

III. EXTENSION OF ENMITY—“Between your seed and her seed”

- The seed is primarily spiritual.
- Those having the nature of either the woman or Satan

A. Seed of the Serpent (Satan)

1. See Jn. 8:44—from the beginning and now against Christ.
2. Mt. 13:37-39—good and bad seed sown by Christ and Satan.
3. Mt. 3:7; 12:34—“brood of vipers”
4. Mt. 23:33—“serpents, brood of vipers”
5. Cf. Ps. 140:3; 58:4; Is. 59:5—venom, poison, adders’ eggs, etc.
6. I Jn. 3:8-12—the sinner is descended from the devil; “seed of God”—good nature; “seed of Satan”—evil nature; Cain of the “seed of the serpent”—12.
7. Eph. 2:2-3—Satan’s influence in the world-system and in individual sinners (2); flesh is the manifestation of such.

B. Seed of the Woman

1. Human offspring, yet not all, for many are Satan’s seed.
2. New birth—born of God (Jn.3:3, 8; I Pet. 1:23; 1:3)

C. Climax in an individual struggle

1. “You”=Satan
2. “He”-Christ
 - “Bruise”= “crush”
 - Head is crushed; heel can only be “bruised” by the serpent though his intent is to “crush.”
 - Thus, the ultimate and absolute victory comes to the Seed of the woman.
 - Reference to the virgin birth?
 - See Rev. 12:1-17 [Christ and the other seed of the woman & Satan’s war upon them]

CONCLUSION

But, what is Satan’s end?

- Christ’s death brings Satan’s defeat (Rev. 12:7-9).
- His followers conquer through His Blood.
- Finally Satan is bound (Rev. 20:2-3) and thrown into the Lake of Fire (20:10).

The “Seed of the woman” wins against the “seed of the serpent”!

BE OF GOOD CHEER, BRETHREN, FOR “THE GOD OF PEACE WILL SOON CRUSH SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET.