

THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

Genesis 3:15

INTRODUCTION

- A *worldview* is a philosophy or conception a person has of the world around them
- A person's worldview is foundational to his entire life, influencing his attitudes, thoughts, decisions and actions
- There are many false worldviews, such as humanism, atheism, evil political ideologies (communism, anarchism), false religions (Islam, Buddhism, Catholicism)
- A wrong worldview will result in wrong decisions, a destroyed life and eternal damnation
- There is only one correct and true worldview, which is informed by the Bible
- This correct worldview will result in right decisions, a fulfilled life and eternal blessedness
- The opening chapters of Genesis provide us with the foundation of a theistic worldview, answering the most fundamental questions of human existence, such as
 - ✓ Is there a God?
 - ✓ How did life begin?
 - ✓ What is my purpose in life?
 - ✓ Why is there evil in the world?
 - ✓ Is there a way to be delivered from death?
- Genesis 3 records the fall of man, by yielding to temptation and bringing sin into the world

- God pronounced his curse upon the serpent, the woman and the man, showing that he is a God of justice who demands punishment for sin
- Yet even as God brought his judgment upon his creatures, he gave a promise of redemption and salvation through a coming Deliverer, showing that while God is just, he is also rich in mercy – with God “mercy rejoiceth against judgment” (James 2:13)
- The promise of Genesis 3:15 is known as the proto-evangel – the first gospel
- It was bad news for Satan, but good news for mankind
- The promise was spoken to Satan, pronouncing God’s victory over him
- The Second Adam describes Christ’s prevailing against sin
- The Seed of the Woman describes Christ’s prevailing against Satan

I. THE ENMITY BETWEEN CHRIST AND SATAN

A. God himself ordained this enmity

1. He says, “I will put enmity”
2. The offspring of the woman would be in opposition to, and in conflict with Satan
3. This conflict between these opposing forces began in the Garden and will continue until Christ finally ends it

B. The contestants in the conflict

1. This applies in the physical realm to the enmity between humans and snakes

2. Satan used the serpent to tempt Eve, and so God judged the serpent by making him to go about on his belly and eat dust
3. Evidently he was originally a far more glorious creature
4. But the greater application is in the spiritual realm, to the serpent's seed and the woman's seed
5. Satan is clearly identified as the serpent (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
6. Satan's seed are unbelievers who do the works of their father, the devil (Matthew 13:38; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10)
7. In opposition to the children of Satan are the children of God – all people belong to either God's kingdom or Satan's kingdom
8. For instance, though some might consider Cain to be a "seed of the woman", he was actually the serpent's seed – "who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother" (1 John 3:12)
9. Since the fall of man, Satan, his devils and his people have been waging war against the children of God seeking to bring them into sin and to destroy their lives (Job 1:8-11)

C. The promised seed, the Messiah

1. The collective "seed" of the first part of the verse is narrowed to a singular "seed" in the second part of the verse by the use of singular masculine pronouns, (it/he and his)
2. This clearly states that there would be an individual Seed who would go into conflict against Satan

3. From this initial promise of a Messiah, the unfolding of the Old Testament is the working out of that promise, to bring it to pass
4. God selected a specific line through which the woman's seed, the Messiah, would come – Shem, Abraham, Jacob, Judah, David
5. God's continual providential preservation of the people of God is his preservation of the line through which the Messiah would come
6. Likewise, Satan's continual persecution of Israel is not just his hatred of humanity general, and of God's covenant people, but his attempt to destroy the woman's seed
 - a. Cain murdered Abel (Genesis 4:8; 1 John 3:12), but God raised up another seed, Seth (Genesis 4:25)
 - b. Satan corrupted the human race (Genesis 6:4-13), but God saved Noah and his family
 - c. Pharaoh sought to destroy the Hebrews (Exodus 1:16-22), but God intervened and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage
 - d. Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, her attempted to destroy all the royal seed of David (2 Kings 11:1-3), but God preserved Joash in the temple
 - e. Haman attempted to exterminate all the Jews (Esther 3:6), but God used Esther to bring out the Jews' deliverance
 - f. Herod slaughtered the innocents in his attempt to eliminate the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:16-18), but God led Joseph, Mary and Jesus into Egypt for preservation

7. In Revelation 12 is pictured this attempt by the “great red dragon”, Satan, to destroy the “man child” (Christ) and the woman from which he came (Israel)
8. Satan failed to destroy Christ, but he continues to persecute Israel after the flesh – the Jews, and spiritual Israel – the church (Revelation 12:13)

II. THE INJURY OF CHRIST BY SATAN

- A. Satan would bruise Christ’s heel
 1. Christ, is fully God and fully man, possessing two natures
 2. Satan could not touch Christ’s higher, divine nature
 3. But Satan would bruise, afflict and wound Christ’s lower, human nature
 4. As Christ underwent his passion, Satan bruised Christ (Isaiah 53:3-5)
 5. Yet the blind rage of Satan against Christ was nothing but the plan of God to bring about the atonement for the sins of mankind – “it pleased the LORD to bruise him” (Isaiah 53:10)
 6. Satan’s people did what God’s hand and counsel determined before to be done (Acts 4:26-28)
 7. “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:8)

III. THE VICTORY OF CHRIST OVER SATAN

- A. Throughout Christ’s ministry, Satan continually assaulted Christ, but Christ prevailed

1. In his temptation, Christ was victorious over Satan (Luke 4:1-4; Hebrews 4:15)
 2. Satan continually moved Christ's enemies to lay hold on him and kill him, but were unable to (John 7:30; 8:20; 10:39)
 3. Satan used Peter to tempt the Lord to renounce the cross, but he rejected him and rebuked him (Matthew 16:21-23)
 4. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ was sore pressed by Satan, filled with exceeding sorrow, yet he prevailed (John 14:30; Matthew 26:36-46)
- B. In his death and resurrection, Christ accomplished his victory over Satan
1. What Satan thought was his victory over Christ by crucifying him, was rather the triumph of Christ over Satan, "having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:14-15)
 - a. "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." (John 12:31)
 - b. "That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14)
 2. In his resurrection and ascension to heaven, Christ conquered death, and "led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8)
 3. Christ now has the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18)
 4. In contrast to Christ's bruise *heel*, Satan's *head* is bruised, signifying his complete defeat

- C. Christ continues to exercise victory of Satan through his saints today
1. We can resist Satan in the faith and he will flee (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9)
 2. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:37)
 3. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)
- D. The ultimate and final victory over Satan will take place in the future
1. At Christ’s Second Coming, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Revelation 20:2)
 2. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10)
 3. Even as the serpent in the new creation will not be restored to his original glory, but will remain in the dust (Isaiah 65:25), so Satan will find no redemption, but will have his head eternally crushed in hell
- E. The saints will share in Christ’s victory over Satan
1. “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly” (Romans 16:20)
 2. The God of peace will bring us out of the enmity and war we face with Satan, and into eternal peace

CONCLUSION

1. Satan is a real being, active in the world today

2. We are commanded to be vigilant against him and his devices (1 Peter 5:8)
3. Yet God has not left us at his mercy, but has given us the Lord Jesus Christ to bring us victory over Satan
4. All of us are either children of God, or children of Satan – which are you?
5. Often Satan's people can appear to be saints (Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15)
6. But in due time, those deceivers will be exposed and judged
7. Unless you repent and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you remain under Satan's bondage and destined to eternal judgment
8. Our worldview governs how we think and behave in life – is your worldview based upon Scripture alone?
9. We must learn to view the events of the world, and the events of your life not as random, isolated happenings, but as all part of the great war between God and Satan, between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness
10. Likewise we should read the Scripture as a whole, in the framework of this cosmic battle, and God's work of redeeming lost humanity from sin and from Satan's power
11. All praise and glory to God for sending Jesus Christ, the woman's seed to crush Satan's head and grant us pardon and eternal life!