

Genesis 3:8-17

Genesis 3:14 – The Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, **cursed** are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;...

- **V.14** starts a series of **curses**, up until this point it had all been blessings
- In **V.9-13**, God goes to the man first, the man blames the woman, then the woman blames the serpent
- In **V.14-19**, God's curses reverse this order

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- What should we picture in our mind?

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- What should we picture in our mind?
- **Eating dust is a picture of absolute submission and total defeat**
- The implication is that if you oppose God and His people, you will be brought low and you will be defeated
- **“all the days of your life”** - This curse is not temporary, it’s ongoing forever
- Defeat, pictured as eating dust, is reinforced throughout the Bible

Psalms 72:1; 8-9 - Of Solomon. Give the king your justice, O God,...8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! 9 May desert tribes bow down before him, **and his enemies lick the dust!**

Isaiah 49:23 - Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and **lick the dust** of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord;...

- Not just Satan, but anyone opposed to God and His people will lick, eat the dust
- The future for God's enemies, is the same as the serpent's future

Micah 7:15-17 - "As in the days when you departed from the land of Egypt, I will show you miraculous deeds." 16 Nations will see this and be disappointed by all their strength; they will put their hands over their mouths and act as if they were deaf. 17 **They will lick the dust like a snake, like serpents crawling on the ground.** They will come trembling from their strongholds to the Lord our God; they will be terrified of you.

- The enemies of God are the spiritual seed (offspring) of the serpent
- The enemies of God are cursed like their spiritual father (**John 8:44**)
- The serpent and his followers (God's enemies) will eat dust and be defeated forever

Genesis 3:15 – 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.

- The way the serpent and those opposed to God are defeated is **V.15**
- There is a hostility between the serpent and the woman AND between the serpent's offspring and the woman's offspring
- The offspring of the woman is not just her descendants in general, but a specific, male individual is in view (**He, His**)
- Whatever hostility that exists between the enemies of God and the people of God, the serpents defeat will be tied to the future birth of a son
- **V.15** is one of the greatest verses in all the Bible – *protoevangelium* – “the first gospel” (good news)
- The redeeming hope for all sinners begins with this verse
- The Bible exists in order for sinners to know that God made this promise, and the rest of the Bible exists to show us how He keeps that promise

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- **Numbers 21:4-6**

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- **Numbers 21:4-6** – “fiery” the bite is venomous and painful (burning fire), death
- **V.7-9** - “serpent” in Hebrew looks similar to the word “bronze”
- Some scholars think the color of the serpents were bronze in color
- The Israelites would be instantly reminded of the curse of **Genesis 3:15**
- By lifting the snake up on a pole, Moses was indicating that the curse would be taken away from the people if they looked to it, which was a sign of faith
- **John 3:14-15** - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- When we read **Numbers 21** now, we think of the cross that fulfilled the promise

Genesis 3:15 – ...he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

- Also notice the words bruise (crush, strike) are the exact same words
- This suggests that the same thing happens to both, a strike that results in death
- The serpent strikes the Son and the Son strikes the serpent
- But the defeat of the serpent isn't without a price
- The cost of defeating the serpent is the Son's life
- V.15 is a promise that the Son's victory will be accomplished through suffering (pain) and ultimately, death

Genesis 3:15

- For the rest of the Bible, we are looking for the promised Son to come

Genesis 5:28-29 - When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. 29 He named him Noah, saying, “This one will bring us comfort from our labor and from the **painful** toil of our hands because of the ground that the Lord has **cursed**.”

- The knowledge of a coming son gets passed down through the generations
- Lamech was looking for the coming son, and thought maybe it was Noah
- Noah was not the one who would defeat the serpent, but we learn more of what the Son would accomplish
- The Son would relieve us of the **cursed** ground and **painful** toil
- The coming Son would not only defeat the serpent, but He would reverse the curse

- In **Genesis 12** we learn that the Son would come through Abraham

Genesis 22:9-14 – When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! And he said, Here am I. 12 He said, Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, The Lord will provide; as it is said to this day, On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.

- Abraham was the father of a promised son, but Isaac was not THE promised Son
- Instead of Isaac, a ram was provided for the sacrifice

- Abraham called the place “The Lord will provide,” God will provide the offering
- The seed from **Genesis 3:15**, the Son we are looking for, would BE the offering on behalf of sinners
- **Genesis 22:17** – I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies
- In the battle between the 2 seeds, those who align with God will be blessed and the blessed offspring will defeat God’s enemies

Judges 16:1-3 - Samson went to Gaza. There he saw a prostitute and slept with her. 2 The Gazites were told, “Samson has come here!” So they surrounded the town and hid all night at the city gate, waiting for him to leave. They relaxed all night, thinking, “He will not leave until morning comes; then we will kill him!” 3 Samson spent half the night with the prostitute; then he got up in the middle of the night and left. He grabbed the doors of the city gate, as well as the two posts, and pulled them right off, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of a hill east of Hebron.

Genesis 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

- Not only would the Son come from the line of Abraham, but the future Son would be an Israelite from the tribe of Judah
- He would also be a ruler, a king
- Later, Balaam was recruited to curse Israel, but God only allowed him to bless them
- Balaam spoke of the future Son

Numbers 24:17 - I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab...

- Balaam confirms what was said in **Genesis**
- A singular male coming from Abraham's family will rule and crush the head of God's enemies

- Later we learn that the promised seed would descend from the house of David

2 Samuel 7:12-13 – When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Micah 5:2 - As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah—from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past.

- The seed of the woman would be an Abrahamic descendant from the tribe of Judah who would be a ruler from the line of David born in the town of Bethlehem

- As the storyline of the singular, male seed goes on, the enmity between the offspring of the serpent and the offspring of the woman are also playing out
- Those who follow Christ, Believers, are the seed of the woman
- We believe His promises, submit to His Word, and hope in a deliverer
- Unbelievers are the seed of the serpent
- They worship their sin and are against God
- After **Genesis 3**, Adam and Eve have two children, Cain and Abel
- Although both brought offerings to God, the Lord did not receive Cain's because Cain's offering was not brought in faith (**Hebrews 11:4**)
- So Cain murdered his brother Abel
- Spiritually speaking, Abel was part of the seed of the woman

1 John 3:12 - We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

- In **Judges 4** there was an enemy of God named Sisera who oppresses the Israelites for 20 years with his army
- Finally the Israelites cry out to God to save them

Judges 4:15-21 - The Lord routed Sisera, all his chariotry, and all his army with the edge of the sword. Sisera jumped out of his chariot and ran away on foot. 16 Now Barak chased the chariots and the army all the way to Harosheth Haggoyim. Sisera's whole army died by the edge of the sword; not even one survived! 17 Now Sisera ran away on foot to the tent of Jael...20 He said to her, "Stand watch at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes along and asks you, 'Is there a man here?' say, 'No.'" 21 Then Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg in one hand and a hammer in the other. She crept up on him, drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground while he was asleep from exhaustion, and he died.

- The seed of the serpent died by a fatal head wound and ate dust

1 Samuel 17 – And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders...

38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them. So David put them off...

48 The Philistine drew steadily closer to David to attack him, while David quickly ran toward the battle line to attack the Philistine. 49 David reached his hand into the bag and took out a stone. He slung it, striking the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank deeply into his forehead, and he fell down with his face to the ground.

Genesis 3:16a. - To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.

- Every birth has happened outside Eden with pain and discomfort
- But pain in childbirth isn't just about the time of the actual birth
- It's everything that comes with having a child
- Abraham/Sarah, Isaac/Rebekah, Jacob/Rachel, Zechariah/Elizabeth, were all barren

Genesis 30:1-2 - When Rachel saw that she could not give Jacob children, she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children or I'll die!" 2 Jacob became furious with Rachel and exclaimed, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

- They were trying to fulfill **Genesis 1:28** (Be fruitful and multiply) but because of the curse they couldn't

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- Cain was the first son of Eve
- Thinking Cain was the promised seed Eve says, **Genesis 4:1** - ...I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.
- Pain in childbearing becomes pain in childrearing
- A mother and father become 2 sinners parenting a sinner
- Solomon said in **Proverb 10:1** - A wise child makes a father rejoice, but a foolish child is a grief to his mother.
- Eve knew the pain of having a child (at first thinking he was the promised Son) and watching that child grow in wickedness
- Adam saw joy of having Abel turn to pain when Cain murdered him
- Joy is expressed again when they had another son, Seth
- There was hope again because at that point, the only other son they had was of the serpent

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- **Luke 1:30-33**

- Finally, the promised Son

- The distant Son of Eve was the coming Son of Mary

- Mary's pregnancy and birth was like all women, the changing of her body over months, cramps, discomfort, sickness, pain

- But the pain of childbirth would be surpassed by the pain of His life and death

- **Luke 2:21-22; 25-35**

- Jesus's ministry revealed people's spiritual condition

- How you respond to Jesus determines if you rise or fall

- **John 19:26-27** tells us Mary was there when her Son was being crucified

- At that moment, the sword pierced Mary's soul

- She had known pain before, but not like this

Genesis 3:16a. - To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your **pain** in childbearing; in **pain** you shall bring forth children.

- This is the first occurrence of the word pain in the Bible
- Because of Adam's sin, we now all experience pain (Adam **v.17**; Lamech/Noah **5:29**)
- When Moses encounters God at the burning bush, God sees the Israelites in pain and promises to deliver them from it

Exodus 3:7 - The Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their **sorrows.**
(mak'ob) & I have come down to deliver them

- This may have been talking about the deliverance from the Egyptians, but it's a foreshadow of what's to come

Isaiah 53:3-5 - He was despised and rejected by men; a man of **sorrows**, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried **our sorrows**; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for **our transgressions**; he was crushed for **our iniquities**;

- Not only did Jesus come to bear **our sins and transgressions**, but also **our pain**
- By bearing pain on the cross, Jesus was defeating the curse of pain that was given to Adam and Eve and passed on to us in **Genesis 3**
- As Jesus was on the cross, painful burning venom was being unleashed by the serpent and the strike on Jesus's heel was fatal
- But when He died, His Holy heel took aim and crushed the serpent's head
- It was ultimate defeat for Satan because Jesus rose again (power over death)
- Because we're united to the Son through the seed of the woman, we are delivered from our sin and transgressions, and one day, our pain
- The good news of the gospel is that Jesus fulfilled God's promise of **Genesis 3**