

The Promise of Satan's Defeat – (Gospel Glimpses Series)

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Most in our culture have an understanding that the cross of Christ is the very crux (pun intended) of our faith. It's the center of everything we are, we think, we say and we do. But what many do not know and perhaps would be surprised to learn is that the gospel – the good news – about the cross of Jesus comes to us very early in the Bible's message.

In just the third chapter of the Bible we have a prophecy of the chosen one who would come deliver us from sin. This prophecy in Genesis 3.14-15 is appropriately called the *Proto-Evangel*, a word meaning the "original gospel". In the context of the passage, Satan has succeeded in ruining God's good creation by leading mankind to distrust God's promises and to choose to feed into selfishness and to break God's law which he established for the good of mankind.

All of humanity, therefore, sinks into sin and they need atonement and salvation. God takes this opportunity to promise one who would come and finally defeat the serpent. He says, "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." Without understanding Jesus and his role in our redemption, this passage can be enigmatic to say the least – but see what is there!

First, this passage speaks of his person. We're told the coming one would be the seed of the woman. Notice he didn't say of man, or of woman and man, of mankind – simply this: the seed of a woman...alone. This One would come, born to a virgin. This speaks of Jesus's unique birth and humanity – though he was God come in the flesh.

Secondly, this passage speaks of his suffering. In defeating this serpent, this sly enemy of mankind, the father of lies – he would be bit. And this venomous snake would take him down. But it's only a wound to his foot. It's nothing in comparison to what this One would do to the serpent himself. Jesus is crucified. Satan achieves that much. But this very act of victory over Christ in his "power of darkness" (Lk.22.53) would be the death blow to Satan. This wound is ultimately nothing because God raises the Christ from the dead.

Third, this passage speaks of his victory. Even though he was bit, he successfully struck the head of Satan and dealt a deathblow to him. Because he died for our sins, the perfect son of God, he removed God's judicial wrath against

us. He's given us his Holy Spirit to empower our wills toward love and holiness. We are released from slavery forever more. And because he was raised from the dead, he promises the same to us so that fear of death could no longer enslave us.

And now his victory becomes ours, as Paul writes: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you" (Ro.16.20).