

Jesus Christ – The Warrior Seed
Genesis 3:8-15
January 25, 2015

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Grace, mercy, and peace from our victorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The text for today's message is the 15th verse of our reading from Genesis. I'll read it this time from the Message Bible: *I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll [crush] your head, you'll wound his heel.* (Gen 3:15 Message). This is God's first promise of the coming Messiah. And, this prophecy comes in the form of a declaration of war.

Do you ever feel like life is a battlefield? Do you know why you have that feeling? Because it's not just a feeling. Life is an ongoing battle. Life is a war that began the day Adam and Eve first sinned, and the battle won't end until Jesus comes back to earth to reclaim his own.

This war isn't over land, or gold, or power. This war is a struggle for the souls of mankind. Scripture tells us something about the nature of this spiritual warfare. Paul writes: *Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.* (2 Cor 10:3 NIV) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (Eph 6:12 NIV).

Spiritual warfare is scary stuff because what hangs in the balance is your eternal soul. However, we have nothing to fear. Jesus made this promise: *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world* (Jn 16:33 NIV).

The outcome is secured, but still the battle rages on. Therefore, we need to know a few things so we can weather the storm of battle. Scripture teaches us how to understand what is going on in our world, what we need to do because of it, and where our true hope is found.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they turned away from God. In doing so they showed they didn't trust God completely and they refused to obey the one command he had given

them. At the moment of their sin, they experienced spiritual death. Their future was permanently changed. When God came to them, he came with both judgment and grace.

God declared his judgment on all three of the participants in the first sin – the serpent, who was Satan, the woman, and the man.

The curse on the serpent was also a curse upon Satan. Forever making the serpent a symbol of evil, and therefore a symbol of Satan, God said: *Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life* (Gen 3:14 NIV). The serpent was demoted to the lowest of all creatures to be hated by the rest of all Creation.

The curse on Satan went far deeper. With the curse on Satan, God declared war on Satan; a war Satan could never win: *I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll [crush] your head, you'll wound his heel.*" (Gen 3:15 Message). God promised Satan that, when the dust of the battle settled, he would be the loser.

The curse on the woman also ran very deep. From that moment on, there would be a disturbance in all of her most important relationships. Her relationship with her children would begin in anguish: *I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.* (Gen 3:16 NIV). Her relationship with her husband would become strained and haunted by power struggles: *Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you* (Gen 3:16 NIV).

The judgment on the man would adversely affect his most basic responsibilities: *Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return* (Gen 3:17-19 NIV).

We know there was work before the Fall because Genesis 2:15 says: *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*, but now work would be a burden and an endless battle against nature.

These judgments were severe and were meant to last as long as the world stands. But God also showed his grace. To see that grace, we return to verse 15: *I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll [crush] your head, you'll wound his heel.* (Gen 3:15 Message).

Every war requires at least two opposing sides. This war was going to be between the offspring of Satan and the offspring of the woman. This specific offspring of the woman is Jesus. However, we are also offspring of Eve. God has created us to be a people who stand with him against Satan. From that moment forward, there would be two distinct streams of humanity.

On one hand, there would be the offspring of Satan. That's not a popular thought in our politically correct society. However, it is accurate. Our world is full of the offspring of Satan. The first of these might have been Cain, Adam and Eve's firstborn son. Today, there are millions of people who live to do nothing but Satan's bidding.

When he was on earth, Jesus recognized the children of Satan. Many of them were the leaders of the church. Here's what he told them: *Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies* (Jn 8:43-44 NIV). Those who do not yield to the Word of God are ultimately the offspring of Satan.

On the other hand, there is the offspring of God. These aren't people who were born holy. On the contrary, like all of humanity, these people were born in the clutches of the devil. But God has redeemed these people. God has rescued these people from the power of the devil and adopted them into his family.

Paul said it like this: *He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins* (Col 1:13-14 NIV). God will always have his offspring who stand with him. They will always be the minority, but there will never be a time when they don't exist. We are part of those people.

Our text speaks not only about a battle between the two groups of people, but also a battle between the commanders of those groups. The words: *He'll [crush] your head, you'll wound his heel*, speak of a specific male human, who will do battle with Satan. That person is Jesus Christ.

No ordinary person could ever stand against Satan. For the devil to be defeated, God would have to intervene on our behalf. Jesus came to our world for the specific purpose of putting an end to Satan's reign of sin and death. The apostle John writes: *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work* (1 Jn 3:8 NIV).

The war to end Satan's dominion didn't happen without cost. The text explains that Jesus would be wounded. God set the price for sin, and that price was blood; not just any blood, but innocent blood. It took the suffering and death of our innocent Savior to pay the price of our sinfulness. Saint Peter says: *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed*

(1 Pet 2:24 NIV).

Jesus defeated Satan with his death and resurrection. The devil's defeat is not something that will happen, it's something that has happened. The struggles we live with today are just the death throes of the defeated serpent.

Today, we stand on the other end of history from Adam and Eve. Still, we have something in common with them. The presence of sin has led to a global warfare for the

souls of humanity. Those of us who are the redeemed children of God are safe. As long as we stand with our Savior our victory is as sure as his.

Unfortunately, as I said earlier, we are a minority. The majority of the world is allied with Satan and, if something isn't done, that majority will spend eternity with Satan. We are here on earth to do that something. God has not only adopted us, he has also appointed us to take the saving message of the Gospel to those on the other side.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we praise you for the battle your son fought and won in our place. We pray that you would place in our paths those who do not know the saving message of the Gospel, and that you would give us the courage to share the Good News of our victorious warrior Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.