

Genesis 3:15: The Devil got a Beat Down by Jesus the Christ!!

Composed by Brad Lippincott on August 28th, 2011.



Jesus Arm wrestling Satan!!

Genesis 3:15 – And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

This passage is commonly called the *protoevangelium* which means the “first gospel”.¹ This is where God’s plan for the whole world concerning atonement was declared.² In this verse, the Devil is being cursed right after Adam and Eve sinned.

The Serpant

The serpent here does not seem like a normal reptile. (1) The serpent has intelligence, (2) he speaks, (3) he has knowledge about what God says (Gen 3:5), (4) the serpent has knowledge of “good and evil” (Gen 3:5), (5) This particular serpent is “more crafty *than any* beast of the field, even compared to other serpents. (“any” means any) (6) The serpent knows prophetically what is going to happen when Eve eats from the tree; *her eyes will be opened* (Gen 3:5). (7) The pronoun “the” is used to describe the serpent, it is one serpent being singled out; “the” denotes that it is a specific Serpent; this is a title:

הַנָּחָשׁ (the Serpant) *Parsed this way:*

נָחָשׁ (serpant) הַ (the) הַנָּחָשׁ is therefore translated “the serpant”; הַנָּחָשׁ is transliterated *hannahas*.

¹ Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. *The Messiah in the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 37.

² *Ibid.*, 37.

The Torah clearly shows that this is a title for the Devil. This was his original title. We in North Carolina will use the term “the Devil” ALL THE TIME!! But originally he was actually called the Serpent. The New Testament Agrees with this view as well.

(8) Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 11:3; and Revelation 12:9 identify the Serpent as the Devil.

Romans 16:20 – The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

2 Corinthians 11:3 – But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Revelation 12:9 – And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

In Genesis 3:14 part of the curse the Serpent receives is “on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life”. Many take this literally, but Walter Kaiser suggests it should be taken as figurative because in Genesis 1:24-25, God created things that crept on the earth and He called it “good”.³ Kaiser further writes:

The words of the curse on the serpent, therefore, must be figures of speech, vividly picturing those who had been vanquished and who must now lie face down in the dirt while the conquering king literally makes these enemies his footstool. When all these details are taken into account, the identity of the tempter can be none other than Satan, that old dragon, the serpent.⁴

On the other hand, perhaps the serpent became a symbol of sin at this time, and the makeup of snakes changed to have no legs as a result of the fall to symbolize Satan and sin. In Numbers 21:8-9 the brazen serpent is a symbol of sin judged sin brass represents judgment and sin is represented by the serpent.

The Fall of Satan

The fall of Satan is described in Revelation 12. In Revelation 12:4 it describes that Satan and 1/3 of all the angels fell. Therefore, somewhere between Genesis 1:31 where God called everything “very good” and Genesis 3; Satan rebelled.

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³ Ibid., 39.

⁴ Ibid., 39.

Enmity

Enmity is not one of those words you hear on the street all the time. Enmity according to www.dictionary.com is a plural noun and is defined as: “a feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; ill will; animosity; antagonism”.

So in the context of Genesis 3:15 we see that there is enmity (or hatred) between the woman and the Serpent, and between the seed of the Serpent and the seed of the woman (“her seed”).

Interesting notes:

Well...since the woman sinned you think God would flip out on Eve, but instead God goes off on the Serpent first.

- (1) The woman was separated by God because of sin, she and Adam were actually hiding from God in Gen 3:8-10. But notice that God declared that there is enmity between the Serpent and the woman. God is the one who made the woman Eve and the Serpent enemies. Since the Serpent and Eve are enemies, that now means that Eve and God are now friends. Not only did the Serpent fail to get Eve to be on his side, but God made Eve her ally. WHAT A DISPLAY OF GRACE TOWARDS EVE BY GOD HIMSELF!!

God gave Eve **grace**, and God individually **elected** Eve for salvation in this passage.

- (2) Notice that the enmity is also between the serpent’s seed and Eve’s seed. Satan’s offspring, or seed, include all the fallen angels, the beast and false prophet (more commonly called the antichrist), and all the people who hate God.

Eve’s seed include all the people who love God.

The idea is that if Satan can cause Adam and Eve to sin, then the whole human race will be separated by God forever because of sin, but thankfully this passage mentions the Messiah who can save mankind; and Satan did not get his way!!

Seed

This is speaking about Eve’s descendants. Some take this to mean a reference to the Virgin Mary, I believe this is partly true. This passage is definitely referring to the descendants of Eve. (What is interesting about this is that this is the only place in Scripture where Seed is used in reference to a woman. “Seed” everywhere else is used to describe the descendants of a man, not a woman; the exception is here in Genesis 3:15. The implication here is that there will be a

descendant from Eve [a woman] where the Messiah will come from. This certainly gets fulfilled through the Virgin Mary.)

Also keep in mind that Adam has a part of this. Eve cannot have descendants if Adam is not involved.

Notice that the Serpent has seed. This refers to all his evil that comes from him, including people. Some even argue this can also refer to the antichrist; but the antichrist is only one figure of many that represent the evil that comes from the Serpent.

He

All of a sudden there is this “he”. Who is “he”? This “he” comes from the seed of Eve. This “he” will bruise the head of Satan, and this “he” will be bruised on the heel by the Serpent.

Notice that this “he” will be an individual that comes from the seed of Eve.

This “He” is one of the descendants of Eve and it is referring to an individual who will eventually bruise the head of the serpent. God tells the Serpent “He shall bruise you on the head”. God is basically promising the Serpent that an individual is gonna give you an eternal whoppin’

This individual will be the one to conquer the Serpent in the future, this is the Messiah, the one we call the Christ. (*Messiah* is the Hebrew word, *Christ* is the Greek word; and both *Messiah* and *Christ* and both terms share the same definition: “the anointed one”.) This individual is the Messiah who will defeat Satan.

Notice that the Serpent only bruises this individual on the heel. Jesus took a hit by being on the cross, but the Serpent getting his head bruised means that he is defeated forever.

Other translations say Satan’s head will be crushed. שׁוּפָה *shuwph* can be either translated as bruised or as crushed.

The person who will clearly defeat the Serpent is clearly Jesus.

Jesus’ genealogy in Luke 3 goes all the way back to Adam. Luke 3 is actually the genealogy of Mary without mentioning her name, and oddly this passage traces the lineage all the way back to Adam who allowed Eve to have seed. Since the Messiah comes from the seed of Eve, it must be shown that the Messiah has something to do with Adam and Eve.

Question: When did the Serpent bruise the heel of the Messiah as is promised to occur here in Genesis 3:15? The answer is actually found in a few places.

Firstly, Jesus’ heel was bruised when he was being betrayed.

Judas starts to betray Jesus at the moment when Satan possesses Judas, we see this in John 13:27 the night before Jesus' crucifixion. **John 13:26-27** states: "Jesus then answered, 'That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.' So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot. **27** After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.'"

Secondly, Jesus' heel was bruised when he was arrested.

We see in **Luke 22:52-53** Jesus is arrested: "Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? **53** While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.' **54** Having arrested Him, they led Him *away* and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance."

The key phrase in the above passage of Luke 22:52-53 is "but this hour and the power of darkness are yours".

Thirdly, Jesus' heel was bruised when He was on the cross where He physically died.

When did Satan's head get crushed?

Jesus defeats Satan in four distinct places in Scripture.

- (1) On the cross. (2) when the antichrist and his army is defeated in Revelation 19. (3) When Satan is thrown into the abyss for a thousand years. (4) The final bruising of Satan occurs when he is thrown into the Lake of Fire in Revelation 20:10.

The details of how Satan is defeated

Satan is sentenced in Genesis 3:15, but his execution does not occur until he is thrown into the Lake of Fire in Revelation 20.

The first place where Satan's head is bruised or crushed is in John 19:30 where it states: "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

The Greek phrase for "it is finished" comes from the Greek word: *τετέλεσται tatelestai*, and it means more than "it is finished"; it means "it is finished and paid in full". Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. Jesus became the pure living sacrifice on the cross and He became our atonement. Jesus served as priest most high when he died on that cross. When Jesus rose from the dead, he became the eternal priest who conquered death. Since we have a living priest who lives forever,

our sins are covered from past, present, and future. (Heb 4:14-5:7). ⁵When we put our faith in Jesus, our sins are paid for by Jesus; 1 Corinthians 6:20 states: “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body”. Your sins are not just paid for, they are erased: Psalm 103:12 tells us: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

There is a teaching saying that Jesus took the keys of death and Hades from Satan, THIS IS NOT IN THE BIBLE!!

Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross, not in hell as some suppose. **Colossians 2:14 explains that our sins were nailed to the cross when we have faith in Jesus Christ.**

Satan definitely had his head crushed on the cross because it is on the cross that atonement for mankind is offered to those who believe; but Satan’s execution and final death blow occurs in Revelation chapters 19-20 when the antichrist and his army is defeated. Then Satan is thrown into the abyss for a thousand years. After the thousand years Satan is released for a short time where he starts a rebellion. At the final rebellion and all those who are involved in that final rebellion are wiped out, and Satan is thrown in the Lake of Fire by Jesus Himself; Jesus eternally crushes the head of the Serpent in Revelation 20:10; from then on, all humanity; the seed of the woman will love God through faith in Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Other Notes on Genesis 3:15

Compare Genesis 3:14 with Leviticus 11:42.

Grace is receiving what we do not deserve. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

At the moment, not all the seed of Eve are saved, some people are the seed of the devil John 8:44

Eve is given grace, Eve is elected for salvation, a promise about the Messiah is given, the Messiah will defeat the Serpent and his seed, the Messiah is the Savior of mankind; there is a promise of a new nature because all individuals can love God if they do not love Satan.

Eve receiving Grace and the Serpent getting defeated by the Messiah are the Keys to this passage.

⁵ From here you could so easily study the order of Melchizedek in Hebrews 5:6 and in Hebrews 7 compared to Genesis 14:18 and Psalm 110:4.