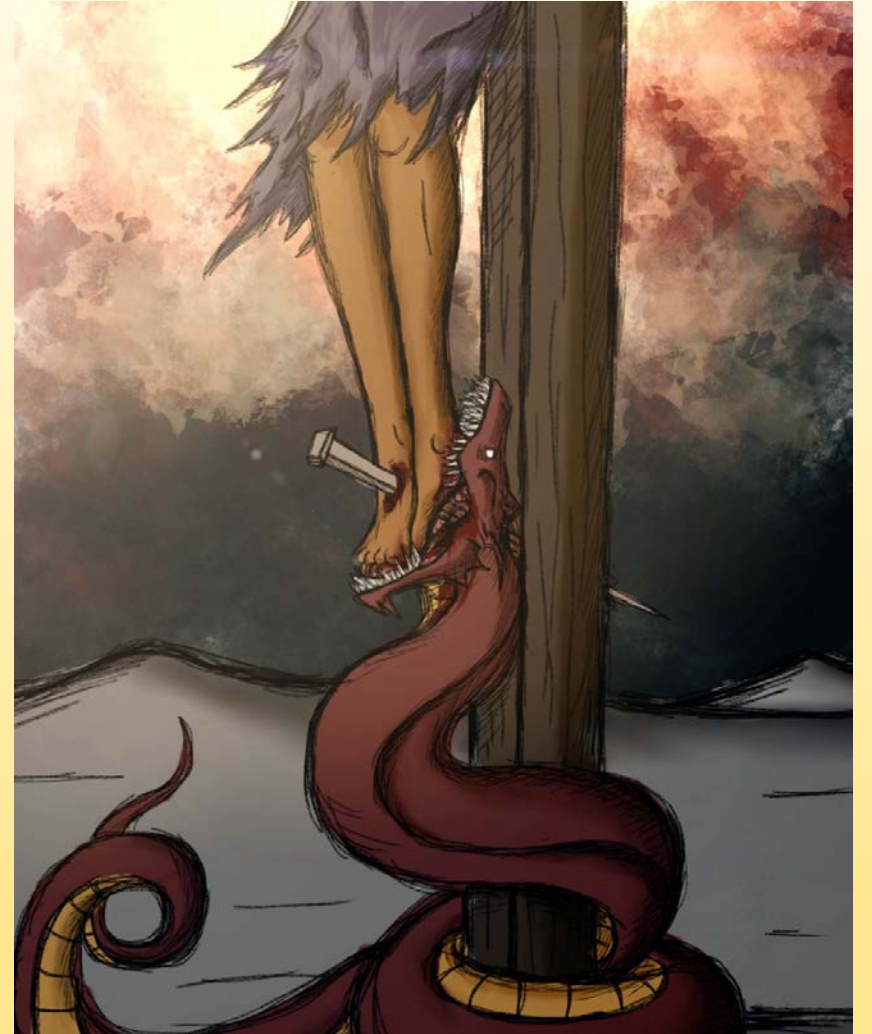


Crisis in Eden

Genesis 3: 15



"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel"
Genesis 3: 15



I. Introduction

God's decision to put enmity between the woman and the serpent is the evidence of His love and care for men and women of this planet. This is also the certitude of the final victory of Good. Evil has no future. We can loose some battles, but the final victory is undisputable.



"The hostility between the serpent and the woman, between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed, typifies the unending conflict between all that represents the forces of evil on the one hand, and all that represents the true and high destiny of mankind on the other... There must be war between every form of evil and the children of man."

Cambridge Bible for Schools
and Colleges



"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This declaration contained the first gospel promise to man. But these words, at the time they were spoken, were not fully understood by Satan. He knew that they contained a curse for him, because he had seduced the holy pair. And when Christ was manifested on the earth, Satan feared that He was indeed the One promised who should limit his power and finally destroy him... The Son of God, undertaking to become the Redeemer of the race, placed Adam in a new relation to his Creator. He was still fallen; but a door of hope was opened to him. The wrath of God still hung over Adam, but the execution of the sentence of death was delayed, and the indignation of God was restrained, because Christ had entered upon the work of becoming man's Redeemer. Christ was to take the wrath of God, which in justice should fall upon man. He became a refuge for man."

Ellen G. White, *Confrontation*, p. 19.

“God not merely confines the serpent within the limits assigned to the animals, but puts enmity between it and the woman, this in itself points to a higher, spiritual power, which may oppose and attack the human race through the serpent, but will eventually be overcome. Observe, too, that although in the first clause the seed of the serpent is opposed to the seed of the woman, in the second it is not over the seed of the serpent but over the serpent itself that the victory is said to be gained.”
Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament



"In Genesis 3: 15 God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman" (Jer. 6: 2, His people, His church) and between thy seed (John 8: 44) and her seed (Rev. 12; 17). A significant fact that is not to be overlooked in the text is that God himself initiated the enmity. It was He who decided to establish this enmity between the two forces. What God has done, we cannot question, reverse, or successfully combat. The enmity is there to stay."

Westwick Abijah Williams



"God passes sentence; and he begins where the sin began, with the serpent. The devil's instruments must share in the devil's punishments. Under the cover of the serpent, the devil is sentenced to be degraded and accursed of God; detested and abhorred of all mankind: also to be destroyed and ruined at last by the great Redeemer, signified by the breaking of his head. War is proclaimed between the Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. It is the fruit of this enmity, that there is a continual warfare between grace and corruption, in the hearts of God's people."
Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible



"No matter how hard Evil tries, it can never quite match up to the power of Good, because Evil is ultimately self-destructive. Evil may set out to corrupt others, but in the process corrupts itself."
John Connolly



"Cruelty and wrong
are not the
greatest forces in
the world. There is
nothing eternal in
them. Only love is
eternal."

Elisabeth Elliot



II. Context



The chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Genesis represent a unit, which helps us to understand that this part of the book (Gen. 2) is not a second text about the creation but more a text about the origin of evil.



The center of our text is the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Even though there is a hope of salvation coming through the woman's seed, the focus is on disobedience and its consequences.



The Structure of Genesis chapters 2: 5 – 3: 24

A	2: 5 - 15	Placement of Man in the Garden "To work it and take care of it" (SHAMAR)
B	2: 16 - 17	God's Prohibition "You must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil"
C	2: 18 - 25	God makes woman and bring her to Adam "It is not good for man to be alone"
D	3: 1 - 7	Disobedience of man and woman in the Garden "She took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband"
C'	3: 8 - 13	God's investigation. Adam is complaining "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree"
B'	3: 14 - 21	God's Verdict to the non-respect of the Prohibition "And I will put enmity between You and the Woman"
A'	3: 22 - 24	Removal of man and woman from the Garden "God placed cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life." (SHAMAR)

III. The text about the origin of our planet, which was created perfectly by God, is completed by the text about the origin of evil. The message is not to justify the chaos, but more to show that God cares about humanity in all circumstances

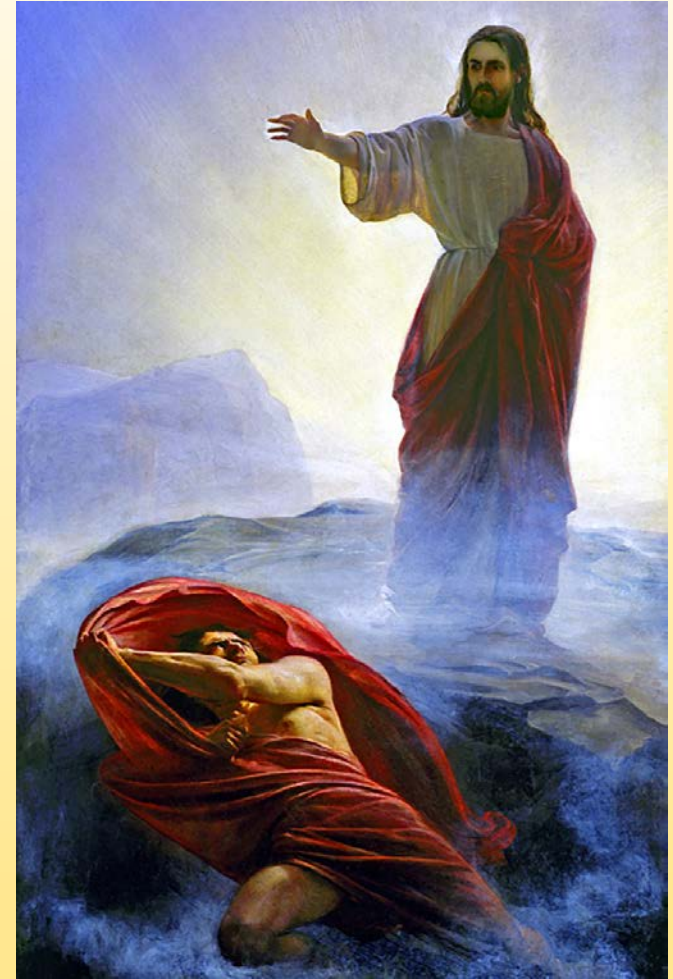


1. The victory of the enemy in the garden of Eden was only temporary. God gave the promise that Satan will never have full control over the woman and her seed.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman”



"Let us hear how God puts enmity against the serpent, so as to bring friendship with Christ."
Origen, Jeremiah, Homilies, 19.7.



"I will make enmity between you and the woman... From these words Adam received the comfort that a woman should give birth. By her fruit this poison and ruination brought by the serpent would be destroyed. The lost righteousness and blessedness must be restored. He and his children would be saved."
Martin Luther



“And never was the enmity developed to such a marked degree as when Christ became an inhabitant of this earth. Never before had there been a being upon the earth who hated sin with so perfect a hatred as did Christ. He had seen its deceiving, infatuating power upon the holy angels, and all His powers were enlisted against it. The purity and holiness of Christ, the spotless righteousness of Him who did no sin, was a perpetual reproach upon all sin in a world of sensuality and sin. In His life the light of truth was flashed amid the moral darkness with which Satan had enshrouded the world. Christ exposed Satan’s falsehoods and deceiving character, and in many hearts destroyed his corrupting influence. It was this that stirred Satan with such intense hatred.”

Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, vol. 1. p. 254.

2. Genesis 3 confirms that God will always have a devoted group of individuals who will never surrender to Satan. A faithful remnant is announced from the beginning of the Bible
"And between your seed and her Seed."



“If the woman represented God’s faithful church of old, her seed must be those who came out of her, that is, those Christians through the ages who remained faithful to God’s Word. What, then, is “the remnant of her seed? The word “remnant” means “a small remaining quantity of something.” Thus, there will be in the last days a small remaining group of people who remain faithful to God and yet who will face the devil’s wrath. According to this text, two characteristics of this remnant are that they “keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). Though much can be said about these two characteristics, the crucial point for now is that the Bible does teach that God will have a faithful, loyal remnant people in the last days. This concept is important because, so often today, we hear that beliefs and doctrine don’t really matter.”

Clifford Goldstein

“And the dragon [Satan] was wroth [enraged] with the woman [the church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God. . . .” Here’s God’s description of His true church. At first glance you’d think almost any church would fit it. But do all religions today really “keep the commandments of God?” Or do some pay lip service to God’s Ten Commandments, while ignoring the specifics of those commands? The Second Commandment forbids bowing down to images. But many congregations bow before icons of wood and metal and marble. The Fourth Commandment, perhaps the most ignored of all, calls us to “Remember” the seventh day as God’s holy Sabbath. Any calendar shows the seventh day of the week to be Saturday, not Sunday—but drive by most churches on Saturday and you’ll find empty parking lots. Yet one distinguishing characteristic of God’s true church is obedience to His commandments, to all ten of them.”

Mark Finley

“In these last days, when iniquity shall abound, and the love of many shall wax cold, God will have a people to glorify his name, and stand as reprovers of unrighteousness. They are to be a “peculiar people,” who will be true to the law of God, when the world shall seek to make void its precepts; and when the converting power of God works through his servants, the hosts of darkness will array themselves in bitter and determined opposition.”

Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, May 8, 1888, par. 7.



3. The destruction of Satan and of evil is symbolized by the crushing of his head. The poison of a serpent, as well as the poison of evil, will be annihilated through the victory of Jesus Christ.

“He shall bruise your head”



"Jesus suffered in the flesh, that with His bruised and broken body He might cover the defenseless sinner. The victory gained at His death on Calvary broke forever the accusing power of Satan over the universe and silenced his charges that self-denial was impossible with God and therefore not essential in the human family."

Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, vol. 1. p. 341.



"The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head indicating Satan's ultimate defeat. This has different aspects. First, at the cross. It was there where Satan was initially defeated. Jesus said: Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out (John 12:31). Second, When Christ eventually returns to the earth, He will bind Satan and place him in the pit (Revelation 20:1-4). And third, eventually Satan will be cast into the lake of fire along with those who followed him (Revelation 20:7-10). Scripture looks forward to the day when the serpent's head will be crushed."

Don Stewart

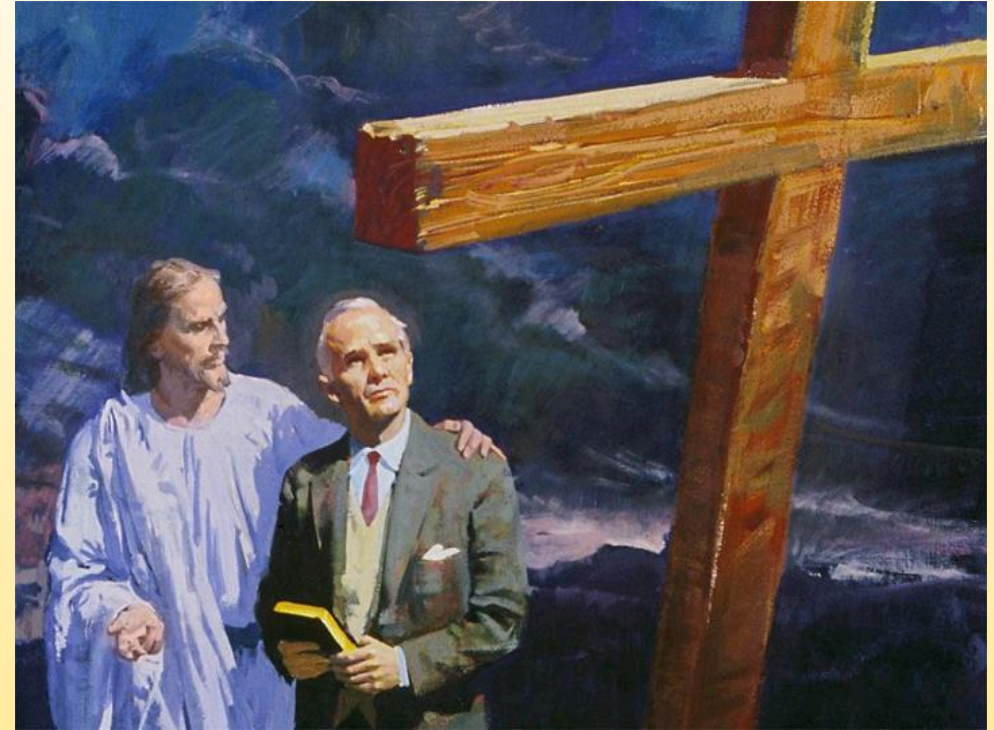
"God is predicting the defeat of Satan by the coming of Christ, the Messiah. God is drawing the battle lines between himself and Satan. "He shall bruise your head" is a mortal wound. The power of Satan is crushed by the cross of Christ. At the cross Jesus dealt Satan a fatal blow. There he paid for the penalty of sin fully. He not only paid for the sins of the world on the cross but he defeated Satan there (Colossians 2:14,15). Satan was executed at the cross."

Grant Richison



4. God knew in advance the immeasurable price that will be payed for the salvation of man. But He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to die, to suffer to have His heel bruised.

“And you shall bruise His heel”



“When Adam opted out of the universal covenant by disobedience, God confronted him in the Garden and introduced a second covenant, known as the covenant of grace, or new covenant. This covenant is stated in the words addressed to Satan: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15). This new covenant of grace makes four provisions: (1) God will break the alliance between Satan and humans by putting enmity toward evil within the human heart; (2) this enmity will work itself out in confrontation between the seed of Satan and the Seed of the woman; (3) in this confrontation God brings about the termination of Satan; and (4) in this confrontation the heel of the woman’s Seed will be bruised which, in turn, brings about the salvation of any sinner that accepts the terms of the new covenant. The new covenant rests solely upon the actions of God and the sinner’s willingness to accept these actions.” George E. Rice, *The covenants and righteousness by faith*, Ministry Magazine, May 2007.

"The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers" Ellen G. White, Gospel Workers, p. 315).



“Christ crucified – talk it, pray it, sing it, and it will break and win hearts. This is the power and wisdom of God to gather souls for Christ. Formal, set phrases, the presentation of merely argumentative subjects, is productive of little good. The melting love of God in the hearts of the workers will be recognized by those for whom they labor. Souls are thirsting for the waters of life. Do not be empty cisterns. If you reveal the love of Christ to them, you may lead the hungering, thirsting ones to Jesus, and He will give them the bread of life and the water of salvation.
Ellen G. White, 6T p. 67.



V. Conclusion



"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."
Martin Luther King Jr.



“You think that your laws correct evil - they only increase it. There is but one way to end evil - by rendering good for evil to all men without distinction.”
Leo Tolstoy, Christians and the Law-Courts

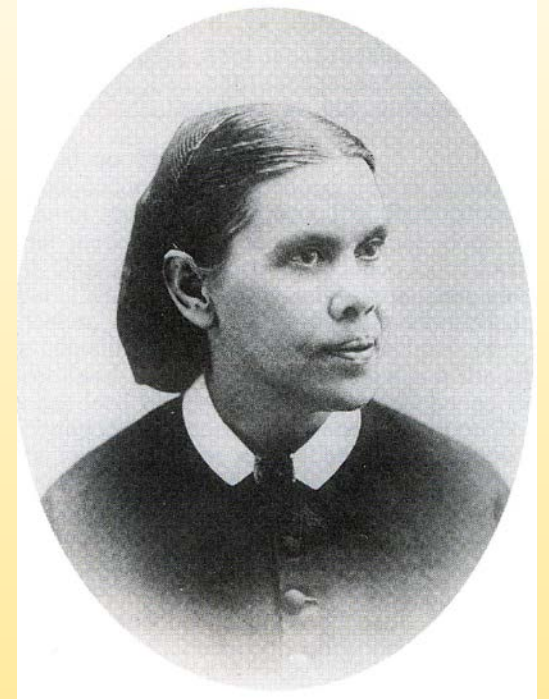


“For God loves to save and not to condemn; therefore is He patient with evil, that out of evil good may be brought.”
Augustine



To man the first intimation of redemption was communicated in the sentence pronounced upon Satan in the garden. The Lord declared, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. This sentence, uttered in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. While it foretold war between man and Satan, it declared that the power of the great adversary would finally be broken.... Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, they could look forward to final victory."

Ellen G. White, *Christ in His Sanctuary*, p. 19.



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