



Genesis 3:14-15

# THE REAL BATTLE ACCORDING TO GOD

*War has been declared! The great, governing cherub has become the malignant enemy. Our God was neither surprised nor astonished, for, of course, He knew before it happened that it would happen, and He had His perfect plan ready to be put into effect. Although the Lord had the power to destroy Satan with a breath, He did not do so. It was as though an edict had been proclaimed in heaven: "We shall give this rebellion a thorough trial. We shall permit it to run its full course. The universe shall see what a creature, though he be the highest creature ever to spring from God's Word, can do apart from Me. We shall watch this experiment, and permit the universe of creatures to watch it, during this brief interlude between eternity past and eternity future called time. In it the spirit of independence shall be allowed to expand to the utmost. And the wreck and ruin which shall result will demonstrate to the universe forever that there is no life, no joy, no peace apart from a complete dependence upon the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and earth."* —Donald Grey Barnhouse

The curse on the serpent (and Satan) is at the center of Genesis 3.

- A The fallen cherub (Satan) enters into the garden (3:1)
- B Access to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil offered (3:2-5)
- C Eve partakes, doubting God's goodness and grace (3:6a)
- D Eve gives the fruit to Adam—death! (3:6b-7)
- E God's dialogue with Adam (3:8-12)
- F God's dialogue with Eve (3:13)
- G God's curse on the serpent (3:14)
- G Messiah's crushing of the serpent (3:15)
- F God's judgment on Eve (3:16)
- E God's judgment on Adam (3:17-19)
- D Adam gives a new name to Eve—life! (3:20)
- C Adam & Eve are clothed by God's goodness and grace (3:21)
- B Access to the tree of life denied (3:22-23)
- A The faithful cherubim guard the entrance to the garden (3:24)

## THE CURSE ON THE SERPENT (3:14)

*Because you have done this,  
You are cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go,  
And you shall eat dust  
All the days of your life.*

## THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES (3:15a)

*And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed.*

- Satan is now the \_\_\_\_\_ of this world (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn. 5:19).

*He also deprived the serpent of speech...and the use of his feet. He made him to go...dragging himself upon the ground.*  
—Flavius Josephus (AD 37-100)

*The serpent stood erect like a reed, and it had legs.*  
—Hoshaiah Rabbah (~AD 200)

*The serpent before the sin of the fall was the most beautiful creature among the beasts which God had made, and most delightful to man; as are at this day kids, and lambs, and kittens to us, and also that it moved with its head erect.*  
—Martin Luther (1483-1547)

*There has been much speculation as to whether the serpent originally was able to stand upright (the Hebrew word **nachash**, some maintain, originally meant "shining, upright creature").*  
—Henry M. Morris

*The molecular machinery for leg development persists in snakes after these millions of years—it's simply switched off... It's one of the strangest body plans in vertebrates.*  
—Dr. Martin Cohn

- Satan has an intense \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity (Jn. 10:10).
- There are only two \_\_\_\_\_, two kingdoms, in this world (cf. John 8:44; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 1:13-14; 1 John 3:8-10).

### THE CRUSHING OF SATAN’S HEAD (3:15b)

*He shall crush your head,  
And you shall crush His heel.*

- Satan shall \_\_\_\_\_ the heel of the woman’s seed.
- The woman’s seed shall \_\_\_\_\_ the head of Satan (cf. Num. 24:17; Ps. 110:5-6; Is. 27:1; Jer. 23:19-20; Hab. 3:12-13).

*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 and break down all the sons of Sheth [“tumult”].* —Numbers 24:17

*He will judge among the nations. He will heap up dead bodies.  
He will crush the ruler [“head”] of the whole earth.* —Psalm 110:6

*Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury—A violent whirlwind!  
It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.* —Jeremiah 23:19

*You went out for the salvation of Your people, for the salvation of Your anointed;  
You crush the head from the house of the wicked, laying bare from tail to neck.  
Selah.* —Habakkuk 3:13

*For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* —1 Corinthians 15:25-26

### HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

- We must \_\_\_\_\_ our true enemy (Eph. 6:10-12).
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ the bigger story (Rev. 12:1-17).
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ as kingdom citizens (Matt. 5:1-16).
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ our hope in Christ alone (Matt. 7:24-27).

*The greatest teaching of all Genesis 3 is in this fifteenth verse. This is the first Messianic promise. The Redeemer of the race was to be “the seed” of the woman. The entire Bible is occupied with the development and fulfillment of this promise of a coming Savior. Christ was to be born of a virgin, and He would come to put an end to the works of the devil through His death and resurrection.*

—Henrietta Mears

*The seed of the serpent refers to natural humanity whom he has led into rebellion against God. Humanity is now divided into two communities: the elect, who love God, and the reprobate, who love self. Each of the characters of Genesis will be either of the seed of the woman that reproduces her spiritual propensity, or the seed of the Serpent that reproduces his unbelief. The question to the reader is, “Whose seed are you?”*

—Bruce K. Waltke

*Biologically, a woman produces no seed, and except in this case, biblical usage always speaks of the seed of men. This promised Seed would, therefore, have to be miraculously implanted in the womb.*

—Henry M. Morris

*Every prophet prophesied only for the days of the Messiah.*

—Rabbi Yohanan (AD 180-279)

**Bruise.** Heb., *shuph*, “to crush; break; batter; overwhelm.”

*The enemy would not have been fairly vanquished unless it had been a man born of woman who conquered him. For it was by means of a woman that he got the advantage over man at first, setting himself up as man’s opponent.*

—Irenaeus (AD 130-202)