

Adam & Eve refuse to admit their sin

Adam and Eve have been trying to avoid admitting any kind of sin or guilt. They have made clothing from fig-leaves with which to cover themselves. They have put the blame elsewhere and refused to admit frankly what they have done.

The snake

The only hope for them is that God Himself should do something about their plight. God did not question Satan in the way that He had questioned Adam and Eve. Satan is beyond redemption. There would be no point in God seeking to bring the snake to repentance. Instead God simply pronounces His verdict upon the snake.

• **Beyond redemption**

• **Cursed by God**

‘And Yahweh God said to the snake, “Because you have done this you are cursed above every living animal of the countryside. You shall go on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life” ^{□1}. ‘The snake’ is cursed. Satan is cursed by God. To ‘eat dust’ is a phrase meaning to be utterly defeated. It is not necessary to think that some change in the shape of the snake takes place. We must not think of a beautiful upright shining serpent which now becomes a snake. Genesis 3:14 is using picture-language. It simply means that the hissing, wriggling, slithering, deceitful, camouflaged, dangerous way that the snake behaves, is a picture of the enemy of God and his people. The snake was always like that but now his form is to remind us of Satan every time we see a snake. (It is like the rainbow. It was always there, even before Genesis 9:13 but after the flood it became a sign.)

□1 3:14

• **A picture of the enemy of God and his people**

When God turns to the woman He does not curse her. The snake is doomed but the guilty couple are not cursed in quite the same way. The devil is beyond salvation but the woman is not beyond salvation.

God says, ‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed’.

In Genesis 2:19 men and women were above the animals. Genesis 3:1–7 gave us a picture of a talking animal that hates God and rises above its natural position, wishing to ruin the human race. It is a parable of one who hates God, ‘the old serpent, the Devil, Satan’ ^{□1}.

□1
Revelation
20:2

The Future

1. **Enemies**

1. **The snake will not be allowed to be ‘friendly’ to the woman again.** There will be ‘enmity between you and the woman’. Eve will from now on know that the snake is an enemy not a friend.

2. **Satan – a spiritual ‘father’ to those who succumb**

2. **The snake will have a seed.** This does not refer to evil spirits but to human beings who succumb to Satan and in some sense have him as their spiritual ‘father’. (‘You are of your father, the devil ... He was a murderer from the beginning’, said Jesus, John 8:44.)

3. **Humanity divided**

3. **The woman will have a seed.** She will be the enemy of the snake and there will be many of her descendants who will also be opposed to the snake, that is, opposed to Satan. The human race will divide into two, those who are on the side of the snake and those who are allied to the woman in her opposition to the snake.

4. **A prediction - the woman’s seed will crush the snake’s head**

4. **The seed of the woman will crush the snake’s head.** ‘He shall crush your head, and you shall crush his heel’ ^{□1}. The Hebrew word here means ‘to crush, to batter, to seriously bruise’. When you kill a snake you crush its head.

□1 3:15

This is a prophecy that somehow humankind will eventually defeat the snake and the snake’s seed.

But how? But how can this be? Perfect Adam, who was in daily fellowship with God, and had never sinned, was able to fall. Now the human race is fallen and is in the grip of guilt, and about to be banished from God's presence. How can the 'seed of the woman' ever hope to defeat the snake who has shown such skill and such power?

The prophecy has a question in it. How can the human race ever hope to defeat Satan if sinless unfallen Adam had not been able to do so? And yet there is a prediction that it will.

• *'Seed' can mean one or many* Yet another thing ought to be noticed. The word 'seed' is strangely ambiguous. It can refer to a single entity, 'a seed'. It can be a collective word, 'seed' meaning many seeds.

Genesis 3:15 leaves open the possibility that somehow there will be **one** seed who will conquer the snake for the rest of the human race. This is not just a matter of reading something into the text. The text itself leaves us baffled. How can there ever be anything or anyone within the human race that can defeat the snake? The best man there ever was – unfallen Adam – had failed. How can any other human being do better?

• *A human Conqueror will come* It can only mean one thing. Somehow within the human race there will be a Conqueror who will crush the snake. One will come who will undo everything the snake has done. He will banish the guilt, the shame, the nakedness. He will bring back paradise, and the harmony of Eden once again. He will bring men and women back to God so that once again they can have fellowship with Him as Adam and Eve had done.

• *The gospel – the first tantalising prophecy* Genesis 3:15 is the first announcement of the gospel, the first prophecy of Jesus. It was mysterious and obscure, and must have left its original readers tantalized. It left the question: how can the snake be defeated by someone within the human race?

5. The heel of the seed of woman crushed **5. The serpent would crush the heel of the seed of the woman.** Crushing the head is administering a fatal blow. Crushing or bruising the heel is administering a blow from which there can be recovery.

• *Jesus crushed Satan on the cross* Jesus crushed Satan on the cross. Satan bruised Jesus on the cross. Satan will never recover. He is crushed forever. Jesus recovered. He was bruised to the point of death, but then rose. Jesus recovered from the cross; Satan will never recover.

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