

It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel

Genesis 3:1-21

Text: Genesis 3:15

Introduction:

Series Introduction: As we enter this Christmas season, it is a good time for us to reflect on the reason for this season. Our society has embraced this season as a time of merchandise, parties and foolish observances. People spend money they do not have to buy gifts for people they don't even like, in the hope that they will receive something in return that they do not even need. Many focus their attention on mythical characters like Santa Claus, flying reindeer and busy little elves; while neglecting the primary reason for the season.

I want to focus our attention for the next few weeks on Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. I want to preach a brief series which I am entitling Behold The Lamb. My desire is to magnify Him, edify you and help us all to be drawn closer to God during this special time of the year.

Introduction:

This may seem like a strange place from which to preach a Christmas sermon. Yet, here in the midst of

man's greatest tragedy, is the revelation of man's greatest hope. For it is in this story of sin, judgment and death that we learn of the message of the saving Gospel and the Person of the Lamb of God for the first time.

The Context

God has made man in His image. He created man in perfect innocence and placed him in a perfect environment. Adam has been given dominion over the Lord's entire creation and he has been presented with a perfect companion, a woman called Eve.

They live, free from pain, disease, death and sorrow. Every need they have is met and they enjoy unbroken, unhindered fellowship with God Himself, Gen. 2:8-9. The only restriction they have regards one tree which is located in the Garden of Eden. This tree is called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Adam is warned to stay away from this tree, for to eat its fruit will bring death into the world, Gen. 2:15-17.

Things go well in the Garden, until one day when Eve finds herself confronted by a serpent controlled by Satan. This serpent tells her that God is holding out on her and Adam. He tells Eve that God does not want them eating of the fruit because God knows that when they eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they will be like him. Eve succumbs to the temptation of the devil and eats of the fruit. Adam also falls for the lie and eats as well.

In an instant, everything changes! They are no longer innocent and pure, but they have become sinners; they have become fallen beings. Immediately, they are aware that everything has changed. They become ashamed because of their naked condition and seek to cover themselves with fig leaves, v. 7. In the midst of this tragedy, God comes into the Garden to fellowship with Adam and Eve. He calls out to them because they have hidden themselves from Him, v. 8. God knows what they have done and extracts a confession from Adam, v. 10-12. Then the blame game begins. Adam blames Eve and God, while Eve blames the serpent, v. 12-13. God immediately pronounces judgment upon Adam, Eve and the serpent, and God casts them out of the Garden of Eden.

Yet, right in the middle of this tragedy is a flicker of hope. Here, for the first time, we see a glimpse of the Lamb of God Who will later give Himself on Calvary's cross to redeem a lost and dying world. Here we can see the first stitch in the scarlet thread of redemption that courses its way through the entire Word of God. This precious verse gives us the very first promise in the Word of God regarding the coming Lamb.

1. THE PERSONALITY OF THE PROMISED LAMB

A. Unique In His Origin - the seed of the woman

- This is a strange statement because by God's very design the "seed" is provided by the male members

of every species. Here, we are told that the woman will produce an offspring without the aid of a man.

- Satan did not understand it, Adam and Eve did not understand it; but God indicates that He will send His Lamb into the world through a woman without the involvement of a man! Of course, we know this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Isaiah prophesied it, Isa. 7:14; and the angel Gabriel announced it to Mary, Luke 1:26-35, and to Joseph, Matt. 1:18-25.
- The birth of Jesus was, however, very different. Since He came into this world without a human father, He was born without the taint of sin! He was born pure and sinless, thus He was qualified to die for the sins of humanity, 2 Cor. 5:21.

B. Unique In His Occupation - to bruise the serpents head.

- This Lamb was coming to this world not to show men a better way to live. He was not coming to improve their environment. He was not coming to improve their social standing. He was coming to defeat evil. That was His sole mission, John 18:37; Heb. 2:14.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROMISE LAMB

A. He Would Come As A Warrior - enmity

- The word “enmity” means “hatred or enemy.” Of course, it brings to mind the natural hatred humans have for serpents, but there is much more in view here. The enmity or hatred referred to here runs far deeper than that of a man hating a snake. It refers to the hatred Satan possesses toward the Lord and all that the Lord represents. It refers to the hatred that resided within the heart of the devil that caused him to attack Adam and Eve in the Garden and tempt them to sin. It is a hatred that desires nothing less than the overthrow of the Lord and His kingdom.
- We are told that the One Who is coming was coming to this world as a Warrior. He was coming as One Who would engage in warfare with a determined enemy. He would take up the fight that Adam had lost in the Garden of Eden. He would come to do battle with Satan!
- Of course, Jesus did just that! From the instant this prophecy was given in Genesis 3:15 until the moment Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again from the dead; Satan did everything in his power to stop “the seed of the woman” from being born. He worked through Cain to kill Abel, Gen. 4. He sought to corrupt the human blood line through evil marriages, Gen. 6. He tried to kill the people of Israel in Egypt, Ex. 1-2. He tried to bring about their destruction by leading them into gross idolatry during the kingdom years of Israel.

- Then when Jesus was born, Satan tried to destroy Him as an infant, Matt. 2. He tried to lead Him to sin on the Mount of Temptation, Matt. 4. He tried to get Jesus to claim the crown without going to the cross, John 6. He tried to kill the Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane, Luke 22. And, surely he thought he had won the victory when Jesus died on the cross. What Satan did not realize was that the greatest salvo fired by Heaven was the instant God became sin and died in the sinner's place. Jesus, the blessed Lamb of God, came into this world as a mighty warrior!

B. He Would Come As A Winner - bruise thy head

- The serpent is told that he will “bruise the heel” of the seed of the woman, but the seed of the woman will “bruise” the head of the serpent. Bruising the heel refers to an injury that is not fatal; while bruising the head refers to a fatal wound.
- Of course, this was fulfilled at the cross. The Lamb of God endured death, but death could'nt hold Him! On the third morning, He arose from the dead as the Victor in the greatest battle ever waged. But, in His dying and rising again, He inflicted a mortal wound upon the head of the serpent that will ultimately end with him sentenced to an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

3. THE PORTRAIT OF THE PROMISED LAMB (vs 21)

Genesis 3:21

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

A. It's a Portrait of Sacrifice

- Imagine the horror that must have filled the hearts of Adam and Eve as they witnessed death for the very first time! They had never seen blood before, now they watch as God, with His Own hands, slaughters an animal to provide a covering for their nakedness. It was in that instant that they saw first hand just how much their sin really cost. They finally understood that the wages of sin is death.
- What we see in this verse is a clear portrait of what the coming Lamb would do for us. Remember that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Remember that He had never sinned, 1 Pet. 2:22, and that He did not deserve to die. Remember that He came to this world to have His heel bruised so that He might crush the head of the serpent.
- Now, look away to Calvary. See the Lamb of God nailed to a cross. See His tormentors as they spit in His face. Watch them as they pluck the beard from His cheeks. Listen as they mock Him. Curse Him and deride Him. Watch as they very people He came to this world to save deliver Him up to be crucified.

Can you hear the sound of the whip as the cruel strokes fall again and again upon His back? Can you feel the agony as He is nailed to that cross of wood and lifted up between Heaven and earth to die? Watch Him as the blood pours from the wounds in His head, His hands and His feet. Look at Him as the blood runs down the cross pooling up on the ground.

- Now, understand that everything He went through; every stripe on His back; every agony He suffered; every disgrace He endured; everything He suffered during His life, His trial and His death was because of your sins! He was marred for you, Isa. 52:14. He bled for you. He died for you, Isa. 53:4-6!
- Realize that Calvary is God's billboard, screaming out His love for fallen man, Rom. 5:8. Look at that scene and see the awful hatred God has for sin. Look at that cross and see the boundless love God has for sinners. Look to the suffering Savior and live!

B. It a Portrait of Sufficiency

- After Adam and Eve sinned and became aware of their nakedness, they attempted to cover themselves by making aprons of fig leaves. But, their efforts were insufficient and God killed an innocent animal to provide a covering for their bodies. God wanted to show them, and us, that the works of the flesh can never atone for, or cover, sin. It requires the death of the innocent in the place of the guilty. Sin is taken

away only through the shedding of innocent blood, Heb. 9:22.

- This is a clear picture of the inability of man to make himself presentable to God through his own efforts. The very best we can produce will always fall woefully short, Isa. 64:6. Man has always tried to craft for himself garments of righteousness and garments of religion. But, man's effort never succeeds in covering his sins from the terrible gaze of Almighty God. Man needs a covering that he cannot provide for himself. When Jesus, the Lamb of God, came into this world and died on the cross, He provided a sufficient covering for the sinfulness of man.

Close:

As we enter and move through this Christmas Season, do you know for sure that you know the real reason for the season? Do you know Jesus as more than a baby in a manger? Is He your personal Savior? Or is He just a story in a book; a sweet thought but nothing more, during the busy holiday season? You need to be sure!

You see, just as surely as Adam and Eve came to end of their lives and eventually died and went out into eternity, you will too! You need to know where you will go when that event happens. And, where you go hinges upon what you do with Jesus Christ. Are you saved? If you are then praise the Lord! If you are not, you need to know you can be. If the Lord is calling you to come to

Him, now is the time to do just that. Why not come to Jesus today and meet the Lamb of God?