

THE SEED IS THE KEY

Genesis 3:15

How many of us have set out to read through the Bible? We start reading in Genesis 1 and its interesting and we go on the 2, 3, & 4 and its pretty good and then we hit Genesis 5 and we flat line. Adam fathered Seth. Seth fathered Enosh. Enosh fathered Kenan. On and on it goes and our eyes glaze over and we're thinking, "What has this got to do with anything?" "God, I'm not getting anything out of reading this!"

And we won't get anything out of it until we know God's story and why those genealogies are important. And do you know what the key is to understanding Genesis 5? The key is found in Genesis chapter 3. Turn with me in your Bibles to Genesis, chapter 3.

As you remember from our study last week, before his fall, Satan had been given authority over the earth. When Satan rebelled against God, God stripped Satan of his authority over the earth. God gave dominion over the earth to man. This helps us understand why Satan attacked Eve and tempted her to distrust and disobey God. When we read Genesis 3:1 we read about the serpent; the book of Revelation makes clear that the serpent is Satan appearing in the form of the serpent.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Genesis 3:1

As you know, Eve succumbed to Satan's temptation and disobeyed God along with Adam. By so doing, they relinquished their authority over the earth to Satan who, from that time to the present, has been operating as the *prince of the power of the air*.

Though Satan was successful in his temptation of man, he brought down on himself the judgment of God yet again. Look with me at Genesis 3:15. In this verse God is speaking to Satan.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15

THE PROMISE OF THE SEED (GENESIS 3:15)

Let's unpack this prophesy. There are four provisions in this prophesy.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15

This first provision is aimed at Satan himself. There will be enmity between Satan and womankind. As we will see from the rest of the prophesy, this enmity will exist because of the role the woman will play in defeating Satan. This explains why down through history women have suffered great mistreatment domestically and socially. Satan hates women and as the prince of the power of the air who is the spirit at work in the sons of

disobedience, Satan has influenced human cultures and worldviews to devalue and mistreat women. That is not to take men off the hook for their mistreatment of women, but it helps us understand the persistence and universality of the suffering of women.

Here is the second provision of this prophecy:

15] I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
Genesis 3:15

The offspring of the woman is the Messiah which makes this the very first prophecy of the Messiah in the Bible. What is really important to notice here is that the Messiah is referred to as the offspring of the woman. If you've read through any of the genealogies in the Bible, you know that a person's lineage in the Bible is traced through his father. This is what is called a patrilineal genealogy. So when the Messiah is referred to as the offspring of the woman we realize something unusual is taking place. This prophecy indicates that the Messiah's genealogy will be reckoned, not through a human father, but through his mother's line. Moses does not tell us why at this point in the story. It's not until the 700's B.C. that we learn through the prophet Isaiah that the Messiah will be conceived supernaturally through a virgin (Isaiah 7:4). The Messiah will not have a human father. He will only be able to trace His lineage through His mother.

The second offspring mentioned in this phrase is the offspring of Satan. Who is the offspring of Satan? Is the offspring of Satan the fallen angels? All angels are created by God so the fallen angels cannot be Satan's offspring. So who is the offspring of Satan? It is the person we commonly refer to as the Antichrist.

Now we can't go into detail about the Antichrist at this point in our study. Just know that the Bible reveals that a man is coming who will be a world dictator. This man, the Antichrist, will far surpass the wickedness of the Caesars and Hitlers and Stalins who have murdered tens of millions of people over the course of human history. They will pale in comparison to the Antichrist.

Looking again at Genesis 3:15, here is something to think about: the term *offspring* is used twice in verse 15. *Offspring* should be interpreted consistently as being used the same way in both usages. As I've already stated, the phrase *her offspring* implies a supernatural conception of the Messiah. To be consistent then, the phrase *your offspring*, meaning Satan's offspring, also implies a supernatural conception of the Antichrist. Like the Messiah, the Antichrist will not have a natural human father. He will be generated by Satan.

Now I know that may be a new thought to a lot of us, but let me give you a few more points that back it up. Look with me at 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. Here in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 the Antichrist is called the Lawless One, one of the eleven names by which he is identified in Scripture.

9The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

What we discover is that in the future Satan will attempt to deceive mankind into thinking that his offspring, the Antichrist, is the Messiah. What more powerful a deception than the claim that the Antichrist has a supernatural conception and is born of a virgin? Will that sound biblical to people at that time? Many of those who reject that Jesus is the promised Messiah will believe that the Antichrist is the promised Messiah because of the counterfeit virgin conception of the Antichrist.

Whew! Are we ready to go on to the third provision of this prophecy?

The third provision of this prophecy is that

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
Genesis 3:15

As you can see in this context, the offspring of the woman, the Messiah, will bruise Satan's head. The term *bruise* can also rightly be translated *crush*. What do we do to kill snakes? We cut off or crush their heads. This prophecy makes clear that the Messiah will defeat Satan.

Hebrews 2:14 makes clear that the defeat of Satan began with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
Hebrews 2:14

And Revelation 20:10 reveals the final crushing of Satan

¹⁰and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
Revelation 20:10

The fourth and final provision of this prophecy is found in the final phrase.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
Genesis 3:15

As you can see in this context, Satan will bruise the heel of the woman's offspring. This prophesy makes clear that Satan will inflict a non fatal wound upon the Messiah, the offspring of the woman. This occurred at the crucifixion of Jesus.

Let's catch our breathe and review what we've learned so far.

First, we've learned about Satan's hatred and persecution of women down through history

I will put enmity between you and the woman...

Second, we've discovered that there will be enmity between Satan's offspring, the Antichrist and the woman's offspring, the Messiah.

¹⁵I will put enmity... between your offspring and her offspring

Further, we've learned that this prophecy implies the supernatural conception of both the Messiah and the Antichrist.

Third, this prophecy reveals to us that the Messiah will defeat Satan which began at the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and will be completed in the Lake of Fire.

...he shall bruise your head...

And finally, this prophecy tells us that Satan will attempt to defeat the Messiah, but will only inflict a nonlethal wound. This occurred at the crucifixion of Jesus from which Jesus came back to life.

...you shall bruise his heel.

In this one verse we have an overview of history! But more importantly, in this one verse we have the key to understanding the story as it unfolds in Genesis. What, or rather, who is the key to mankind's rescue from Satan's rule and the curse that descended upon the earth?

IS THE MURDER OF ABEL THE END OF THE SEED-LINE? (GENESIS 4)

The key is the promise of the seed of the woman! The question now becomes who is the seed? Who is the one who will be born of the woman and rescue mankind from Satan? When you keep the promise of the seed in mind, it helps make sense out of what we are reading in the following chapters of Genesis.

For instance, Adam and Eve are also punished by God for their sin and they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. As we continue reading in Genesis 4:1 it says:

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."

Genesis 4:1

Here is the kicker, in the Hebrew, this is what Eve actually said:

"I have gotten a man: Jehovah"

In the text, Jehovah is clearly the name for God. That's why none of our translations have what is on the screen right now. The implication is very clear. Eve thought that Cain was a God-Man and the promised seed who would defeat Satan. What this shows is that Eve was thinking about the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 and anticipating the fulfillment of the promise that through her one would come who would defeat Satan and set them free from the curse. There is another thing to consider and that is how perceptive Eve was. She rightly understood from the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 that Satan would be defeated by a God-man. Her theology was absolutely correct, but her application of it to Cain was not.

Now as we continue reading Genesis 4 we discover that Adam and Eve have another son named Abel. In the course of the story Abel offers a sacrifice that God accepts and Cain offers a sacrifice which God does not accept. What we realize is that the seed cannot come from the ungodly line of Cain so it must be coming through Abel's line. But then Cain murders Abel and the rest of chapter 4 records God's judgment upon Cain. Chapter 4 also records the degeneration of Cain's descendants into godlessness.

In Genesis 4:23-24 we read of a boast spoken by Cain's great, great, great grandson Lamech.

²³Lamech said to his wives:
"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

Genesis 4:23-24

Abel is dead. Cain's line has become corrupt. Is this the end of the line for the promised Seed? It looks that way until we read the next verse...

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

²⁶To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Genesis 4:25-26

God gives Adam and Eve another son, Seth. Seth has a son Enosh and it is during the lifetime of Enosh that people began to call upon the name of the LORD which is a Hebrew phrase meaning regular public worship. The point is that the line of Seth is a godly line. The Seed line has been restored in Seth.

WILL THE LINE OF SETH REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD? (GENESIS 5)

When we begin to read Genesis chapter five and all those hard to pronounce names, we now realize why this genealogy is here – it's the genealogy of the Seed line through Seth. Look at Genesis 5:1-5:

¹This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. ³When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

Genesis 5:1-5

Now Seth's line started out as a godly line in faith and obedience to God. As we saw in chapter 4, it was in the days of Enosh, Seth's son, that regular public worship of God began. But will Seth's line stay faithful to God. And as we read through the genealogy we're encouraged to read about Enoch that

²⁴Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Genesis 5:24

Enoch walked in such faithfulness and intimacy with God that he did not die, but God translated him directly to heaven after 365 years here on earth. Seth's line is remaining faithful to God. As we read on towards the conclusion of the genealogy we read about another Lamech. This Lamech is not from the line of Cain, but the line of Seth and

notice the huge difference in these men. Lamech of the line of Seth lived his life by faith with the promise of Genesis 3:15 on his heart and mind. Consider what Lamech said in Genesis 5:28-29:

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."

Genesis 5:28-29

The name Noah means *rest*. Lamech was looking for the promised Seed and thought his son Noah might in fact be the promised Seed who would defeat Satan and lift the burden of the curse and give mankind rest.

The point is that the line of Seth proves to be a godly and faithful line all the way through to Noah. And that's very significant because it is at this point in history that Satan mounts an all out attack to prevent the fulfillment of the promised Seed.

SATAN'S ALL OUT ATTACK (GENESIS 6:1-8)

¹When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Genesis 6:1-4

This was an all out attack by Satan to corrupt the seed of the woman. The phrase *the sons of God* in the Bible always refers to angels; both fallen and unfallen angels. These angels were fallen angels who took human form and had sexual relations with human women and produced offspring that were half human and half superhuman.

We have evidence in the New Testament that backs up this story. Listen to these two passages:

⁴...God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2 Peter 2:4

⁶And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

Jude 6

When we read verses 5-7 in Genesis 5 it appears that Satan's strategy worked:

⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Genesis 6:5-7

God came that close to destroying the entire human race...

⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:1-8

One man, one family from the line of Seth was found faithful. Satan didn't win. It was a close call, but the Seed will come through the line of Seth through Noah. Our hope is still alive. The Messiah will come.