Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Christian commentators, beginning with Justin (ca. A.D. 160) and Irenaeus (ca. 180), have dubbed Genesis 3:15 as the Protoevangelium, the first messianic prophecy in the OT.¹

Who is the serpent?

- The snake is never identified as Satan in the Old Testament
- More than the principle of evil must have been intended by the serpent’s presence since 3:15 describes an ongoing war between the serpent and the seed of the woman.²
- The serpent’s trickery is ultimately the voice of Satan.
- The instrument of Satan who bore this judgment.
- Ezek 18, God always deals fairly with individuals.
- Rev 12:9: And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

I. God’s Decree

God announces his redemptive work, how he plans to deal with sin.

3:15(a): And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed.

The enmity between Satan and the human race is at the instigation of God.

The problem of evil in the world today is a result of the Fall.

Unbelieving men want to believe our biggest problem is global warming. We have even a bigger problem, which was caused by man. And now, Satan’s enmity is constantly making things worse.

Examples of this mortal combat:

1. Satan attacked Job, destroyed his wealth and his family.
   a. Job was “a blameless and upright man” (Job 1:8; 2:3)

2. Demonic attacks victimize the human race.
   a. Merrill Unger, Demons in the World Today: “The history of various religions from the earliest times shows belief in Satan and demons to be universal. Spells, incantations, magical texts, exorcisms, and various forms of demonological phenomena abound in archaeological discoveries from Sumeria and Babylon, Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Greek, and Roman antiquity are rich in demonic phenomena. The deities worshipped were invisible demons represented by material idols and images. To an amazing degree, the history of religion is an account of demon-controlled religion, particularly in its clash with the Hebrew faith and later with Christianity.”

   b. Demon possession is mentioned 17 times in the gospels.
   c. Jesus treated 9 cases.
   d. Satan and demons have been subjected to Jesus: 1 Peter 3:22: “22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”
   e. Jesus had that authority and delegated it to his disciples: Mark 6:7, “And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”

A. Seed
Hebrew zeraḥ (זֶ֫רַע), Greek sperma (σπέρμα).

In 3:15, Satan’s “seed” [2MS] and Eve’s “seed,” [3FS]

B. Satan’s Seed

Satans’ followers. Angels do not marry or have children. Angels are spirit beings.

C. Eve’s Seed

Notice women don’t have “seed,” even though it is clearly stated. “Seed” normally conveys the idea of a man’s genetic material. So here is a hint that a woman, a future descendant of Eve, would supply the genetic material by which God would enter the world.

Gen 22:17-18:
God appeared to Abraham after the atonement with Isaac (probably 2,066 B.C.) and said, “17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Matthew 1:1-16
In the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew:
1. Proceed from male to male.
2. The Greek uses masculine articles with each name.
3. Five women are mentioned:
   a. [masc. art.] Judah by Tamar (1:3),
   b. [masc. art.] Boaz by Rahab (1:5),
   c. [masc. art.] Obed by Ruth (1:6),
   d. [masc. art.] David by Bathsheba (1:6),
   e. but in 1:16 we read: “and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom [fem. art.] was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”

The other genealogy in Luke 3 states (Luke 3:23): Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) (νομίζω – “supposedly, as a custom”) of Joseph, (Luke 3:23 ESV)

D. Mary supplied the genetic material by which God entered the world.

Paul validates this in Galatians 3:16: Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.”

II. Man’s Victory
3:15(b): He shall bruise you on the head.

The word “bruise” in Hebrew indicates a parallel action between enemies in mortal combat. But if the wound is on the head, it can be fatal.

Head wound?

Fulfilled in Rev 13:3 The “beast” (Antichrist, the person and force energized by Satan) with seven heads during the Tribulation: 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast.

A. Victory at the Cross of Christ

Col 2:14-15 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Eph 2:15-16
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.
III. Satan’s Warfare

3:15(c): And you shall bruise him on the heel.

The church participates in not only the warfare but the victory. We (the body of Christ) struggle against Satan.

Charles Spurgeon: “Conflict is the principal feature of the Christian life this side of heaven.”

What Satan and demons do:
1. Deceive the nations of the world (Rev 20:3) (153).
2. Deceive people by masquerading as angels of light (2 Cor 11:14) (102).
3. Snatch away the gospel so that people won’t believe (2 Cor 4:3-4) (154).
5. Dominate the zeitgeist of the present age (Eph 2:1-3; 1 Jn 5:19; Jn 14:30 Jesus called him the “ruler of this world”).
6. Tempt people to lie (Acts 5:3; Jn 8:44 “the father of lies”).
7. Tempt people in regard to sexual sin (1 Cor 7:5) (156).
8. Inflict maladies upon believers (Job 2:7-9; 2 Cor 12:7) (189).
10. Possess human beings, mentioned seventeen times in the Gospels.
11. Satan accuses Christians day and night before God (Rev 12:10).

1 Peter 5:8-11: Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

How does the church engage in spiritual warfare?

2 Cor 6:7 in the word of truth, [Bible] in the power of God; [Gospel] by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, [Holy Spirit]

Eph 6:10-18: Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and
petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Between the cross and the second coming, Christians (the body of Christ) suffers the enmity of Satan.

We fight and resist and overcome with the Word, the Gospel, and the Spirit.

The church’s ultimate victory is guaranteed by the cross of Christ.