INTRODUCTION:
–God spoke His first promise of a Messiah to the serpent Satan used to deceive Eve—Gen 3:15, And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
–God always keeps His promises. Gen 3:15 was The First Promise of Advent; the early church fathers called it the Proto-evangelium: “the first preaching of the gospel,” because it promised that HOM.idea.

I. The Primeval Conflict: “I will put enmity between you and the woman”
A. God creates the enmity. (Hatred for our soul’s enemy is a gift of His grace, because we will become slaves of demons we befriend.)
B. The woman, Eve, “mother of all living,” points to a future mother, 1st to Mary, but also to the Church (the Bride of Christ, whose offspring, those born again, are strongest when clearly hostile to Satan).
C. Those rescued from the Serpent of Eden gain a new perspective [A shaman won to Christ said he would never go back to serving the devil. He told about a man rescued after being caught by an anaconda. He said: “Will that man ever love snakes, or want to go back to bondage?”]

TRANS: This primeval conflict is still ours today. Jesus said in John 10:10, Satan “comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Christ’s Coming spells the devil’s sure defeat. Part of “life...to the full” is the fact that we have a lifelong battle against a hostile spiritual foe, but with a promise of ultimate victory.

II. The Promised Child: “between your offspring and hers”
A. NKJV= “her Seed” (elsewhere, all Bible reference to “seed [children]” refers to that of men; this narrows it to one person [a Catholic friend to whom I showed this verse, couldn’t identify that woman: it’s Mary!])
B. Did Eve think this meant her?—Gen 4:1, Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” (But he was a big disappointment!)
C. Irenaeus, an early church father, contrasted Mary and Eve:
   1. The seduction of Eve, the first human virgin, was remedied by
the saving truth embraced by Mary, another betrothed virgin.

2. Eve, seduced by a fallen angel’s message, turned from God’s Word embracing a false word; while Mary believing a holy angel’s message, welcomed and carried God’s Incarnate Word.

3. The first virgin was led to disobey; the virgin Mary was led to obey, so that her Seed would be the Promised Child.

TRANS: This Promised Child, the seed of the woman, would not only be at enmity with Satan, but would defeat him. What a comfort to know that God planned our salvation right at the outset of humanity’s tragic fall into sin. What a comfort to know that Christ’s Coming spells the devil’s sure defeat and our ultimate victory.

III. The Predestined Champion: “he will crush your head”

A. “SONG FOR MAN’S FOE” (Poems Between Heaven and Hell)

Fallen angel, serpent wild, When you touched the first man-child, Innocent, the two in one— Their dominion just begun— When you hurt them, caused their fall, Little did you know that all Perished there for you that day When you stole their rule away.

They were only set to reign Over beast, sea, sky and plain. These you schemed to dominate, When you tempted Adam’s mate. These you won, and them as well, Binding earth and men for hell. But the Mighty One in Three, Promised them the Second Child. He took up that flesh defiled, Lived and walked and felt and sweat, And obeyed to pay their debt.

Up they nailed Him in the sky; There He writhed in flesh, to die... But that Human Flesh became Bearer of the highest Name, Leader of a Human Race Far beyond their starting place. Now their rule, by Spirit-birth, Goes beyond the realm of earth. They will judge your host of dread: Human Flesh has crushed your head.

All we lost by way of you He restored, with much more, too.

B. God wants believers to be victorious champions against Satan:

1. Christ’s ongoing victory is manifested through His Church—Rom 16:20a. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (This sounds like an allusion to the 1st promise of Advent in Gen 3:15.)

2. How will He do this?—Rev 12:11. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (It may take suffering, just as it did with Christ, and if so, He will be with us through it.)

C. But the ultimate crushing of Satan underfoot is yet to happen. (Our conflict with Satan awaits a completion that we cannot bring.)

1. Although there is a 1st and 2nd Advent of Christ, their purpose is one—John 3:8b. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. (He will appear again to finish the job He began!)

2. Satan thwarted God’s original plan for creation, which was for us to rule it. (God’s 1st promise of Advent is that He would undo the devil’s work: first, by dealing with our sin, second, by saving us from death, the effect of sin—Hebrews 9:28 (ESV), Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.)

Christ’s 2nd Coming will be our ultimate victory.

CONCLUSION:

–God had a reason for putting “you will strike his heel” last, after He’d told Satan, “he will crush your head.” He was emphasizing what Incarnation and the Cross would cost, and He wanted us to know what it would cost us to join Him: real warfare, real pain and suffering, real casualties. –This is the present challenge before the final victory—2 Tim 2:3. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. What’s our secret?—Heb 12:2, (NKJV), looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

–Have you embraced the primeval conflict by receiving Christ, the Promised Child of the woman? If so, then you’re His warrior, equipped by the Holy Spirit to follow and fight for the Predestined Champion of Gen.3:15, the “Proto-evangelium,” the First Promise of Advent.