

01-03-01-The First Promise of Advent  
 conflict, Satan, Mary, virgin birth, victory  
 Gen 3:15

Christ's Coming spells the devil's sure defeat and our ultimate victory.

### **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*, 1<sup>st</sup> 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,	Promised them the Second Child.
When you touched the first man-child,	He took up that flesh defiled,
Innocent, the two in one--	Lived and walked and felt and sweat,
Their dominion just begun--	And obeyed to pay their debt.
When you hurt them, caused their fall,	
Little did you know that all	Up they nailed Him in the sky;
Perished there for you that day	There He writhed in flesh, to die...
When you stole their rule away.	But that Human Flesh became
	Bearer of the highest Name,
They were only set to reign	Leader of a Human Race
Over beast, sea, sky and plain.	Far beyond their starting place.
These you schemed to dominate,	Now their rule, by Spirit-birth,
When you tempted Adam's mate.	Goes beyond the realm of earth.
These you won, and them as well,	They will judge your host of dread:
Binding earth and men for hell.	Human Flesh has crushed your head.

But the Mighty One in Three,	All we lost by way of you
Love throughout eternity,	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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ, their purpose is one— **1 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**.