

Osaka International Church

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Series: Beginnings #10

Title: The Seed of the Woman

Scripture: Genesis 3:14-15

The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem



I. Introduction

He is risen! Amen! Happy Easter! Two thousand years ago, when the women went to the tomb it was empty. But an angel proclaimed to them, **(Matthew 28:6a) "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."** Since that day the church has rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus our Lord. B.C. Cartoonist Johnny Hart expressed the joy of Easter in this drawing where his character reacts to the empty tomb by shouting, "Yess!"



He is risen! Yess! Amen! The resurrection of Jesus is Good News of great joy. And by the grace of God the resurrection of all believers is included in the resurrection promise and blessing that God has given. Paul wrote of these things in **Colossians 3:1-4**, saying, **"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."** We rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, and we give thanks for the gift of eternal life that He has given us.

II. Teaching

To those who do not believe, the resurrection seems like foolishness, but to those who believe it is the promise of eternal life made certain. The resurrection is the great proof that our God is a living God, and that He is able to do all that He has promised. Jesus rose from the dead two thousand years ago, but the story of Easter begins long before that time, even before the creation of the world. Consider the words of Jesus' prayer in **John 17:24**, **"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."**

The Creator God is an eternal God, existing beyond time and space. And He is a God of love and of glory. Before the creation of the world, even before time began, already the Trinity of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - lived in glory and in perfect love. God desires to share this love and glory with us, and that is why He created the heavens and the earth. **Ephesians 1:4-5** says, **"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."**

The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus was not Plan B. It was God's plan from the beginning, even before He created the world. The long shadow of the cross falls across all of history, and the echo of rejoicing over the resurrection is heard from the beginning of time to the end of the ages. From before time began God had a plan, a plan of redemption and adoption for us as His sons and daughters. And so, **(Genesis 1:1)**, **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** And **(Genesis 1:27)**, **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."**



Genesis 2:15-17 continues the history, **"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.""** God said, do not eat or you will die. But the devil said **(Genesis 3:4)**, **"You will not surely die,"** and Eve chose to believe the lie. Sometimes we make things so complicated. But life is really very simple. God has given us free will, and every day we make a choice. We either choose to believe the lies of the devil, or we choose to believe God's truth.

Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of god and evil and then their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked, and they were ashamed and afraid. They knew that they had disobeyed God and done wrong. They knew they had sinned. You can hear their shame in their words.

Genesis 3:10, Adam answered the Lord saying, **“I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”** Eve said (**Genesis 3:13b**), **“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”** Adam and Eve knew they had sinned but instead of confessing, they tried to hide their guilt.

The devil still tries to tempt us today with whispered lies and temptations that appear pleasing to the eye. But in reality the devil is a pathetic and defeated creature. His defeat began when he was cast out of heaven, was continued when God judged him in Eden, and was made final at the cross of Christ. The devil has already been sentenced to death for his crimes, but we live in the time between the passing of sentence and the final judgment. So although the devil has already been defeated and judged, he is still around and he is still spreading many lies.



After they sinned, the Lord asked Adam and Eve questions that helped Adam and Eve understand their sin and which gave them the opportunity to repent. But the Lord does not ask the devil any questions. The Lord simply pronounces judgment. **Genesis 3:14-15**, **“So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 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.””**

The serpent was cursed to crawl on his belly and to eat dust. It is a familiar image, the picture of a snake slithering on the ground. But I think the language is figurative and the meaning is that the devil will continually experience humiliation and defeat all of his days. The devil is still powerful and we need to be wary of his schemes, but he is a defeated enemy and if we are in Christ we do not need to fear the devil.

God places enmity between the woman and the devil and between her offspring and the offspring of the devil. And, the Lord says to the devil, **“he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”** This verse speaks of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. In Genesis 3:15, “he” refers to the offspring of the woman, so the main meaning is a particular descendent of the woman, the baby born in Bethlehem, the son of the virgin Mary. In the original Hebrew this is clear because the word translated as, “offspring,” is in the singular form, and it literally means, “seed.” The One who will crush the head of the serpent is literally, “the Seed of the woman.”

But, we all went to school, and we know that women don’t have seed. The man has the seed and the woman has the egg. So when the Bible speaks of, “the Seed of the woman,” it is telling us something special. It is telling us that the child to be born has no human father. Here in Genesis 3:15, the scripture already points forward to the virgin birth. The Virgin Mary was made pregnant by the power of the Spirit of God, and the One born of Mary is Jesus, the Messiah who crushes the head of the serpent, or in other words, who totally defeats the devil.

But the victory will come at a price, the Savior will suffer, the devil will strike His heel. There is an old English expression, “he plants his heel.” It is used when a soldier or an athlete steps forward into the place of the contest and moves toward victory. The birth of Jesus can be seen as God planting His heel on the earth to step into battle with the devil. And the cross is the victory that Jesus won. The serpent struck his heel. What would happen if a snake struck your heel? You would probably fall down. And when the devil struck Jesus with all of his fury, Jesus went down. Jesus fell and went down. But Jesus did not stay down.



In the spiritual realm, I think what happened might have been something like this. Suppose I made a fist and hit a rock wall as hard as I could. Would the rock wall shatter? No, the bones of my hand would shatter and the rock wall would stand. Well, in Genesis 3:15, that ancient serpent the devil strikes at the heel of Jesus as hard as he can. But Jesus is the Rock of Ages. The fierce blow of the serpent does not smash the rock; instead it crushes the head of the



serpent. In a few symbolic words, the drama is prophesied. The devil will endlessly make war against the woman and her descendents because he wants to cut off, “the Seed of the woman,” who will come to destroy him and his works. But Jesus the Messiah still comes, born of a virgin in Bethlehem. The devil strikes Jesus as hard as he can at the cross. But the blow crushes the devil’s power. The cross is victory for Jesus, not defeat. Jesus does go down, like a man whose heel has been struck by a snake, but Jesus doesn’t stay down. Jesus rises from the grave and is alive forevermore.



Some doubt, but the resurrection is real history. **1 Corinthians 15:20-22**, “**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**” In Christ all will be made alive.” This is the Good News which we preach, the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus.

III. Closing

Easter puts everything about Jesus into perspective.
Christmas is the coming of the Savior, born of a virgin.
The Savior came to defeat the devil, sin and death once and for all.
The cross was not a mistake; it was God’s battle plan.
It was not a defeat; it was the greatest victory of all time.
The cross was not an execution, but a sacrifice of the Lamb of God.
A sacrifice so powerful that it crushed the devil and his works.
The cross was not an end; it was a beginning.
The beginning of abundant and eternal life for all who believe.
A promise that was proved to be true by the resurrection of Jesus.
Jesus rose from the dead, and He promises resurrection to all who believe.
Say, “yes,” to Jesus and receive resurrection life. Happy Easter.



Let’s pray

IV. Closing Prayer