

The Curse and the Hope
Genesis 3:14-15
October 30, 2016

Introduction

In our study of Genesis, we realize that if we cannot accept what God says in **Genesis 3**, then we cannot hope to understand why there is so much turmoil in this world. Here we see everything evil in this world is because of what man and woman did—they rebelled against what God commanded and did what they wanted to do. They became depraved and refused to repent of their sins, instead blaming others for their misery.

Here we come to the point of Scripture where God is going to pronounce judgment on the Satan, man, and woman. He is going to curse them; however, before He curses man and woman, He curses Satan first, and in His curse of Satan, He gives us the first Gospel, the good news. What is God doing?

Romans 3:26 *to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

He might be just and justifier. How does He do this? We see in His curse of Satan His grace and mercy and justice.

Genesis 3:14-15 *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

I. The Serpent's Curse (14)

- God curses the serpent
 - Cursed above all cattle and beasts
 - Hebrews is actually: Snake alone is the cursed animal
 - Why?
 - Serpent is an animal—no rational choice
 - Serpents are not self-aware
 - Why punish the animal for Satan's doing?
 - Satan is actually the one that does the temptation, not the snake
 - God is cursing the serpent as a picture of Satan's curse
- The curse
 - You will crawl on your belly
 - This does not necessarily mean that the serpent walked upright
 - There is not enough information about what the serpent looked like before the curse
 - This is not the point of the curse
 - Crawling on the belly is a picture of Satan's humiliation
 - It is a picture of Satan's fall
 - Satan wanted to elevate himself above God
 - He rebelled against God (along with 1/3 of angels in heaven)
 - God kicked him (and rebelling spirits) out of heaven
 - This is a picture of divine judgment on Satan

- This is a picture of something beautiful being cast down to the ground
- It is humiliating
 - God told the Jews that eating serpents is an abomination to Him

Leviticus 11:42 *You are not to eat any creature that moves about on the ground, whether it moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet; it is detestable.*

- Even today, people see snakes as vile and loathsome
- Eat dust
 - Snakes do not eat dust
 - What does God mean here?
 - Hebrew phrase that means total defeat

Psalms 72:9 *The desert tribes will bow before him [Solomon] and his enemies will lick the dust.*

Micah 7:16-17 *Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their power. They will lay their hands on their mouths and their ears will become deaf. 17 They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground. They will come trembling out of their dens; they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you.*

- If men lick the dust, that means that they have fell to the ground, defeated
- Satan = defeated, total defeat
- This is a sign or picture of what happens to Satan
 - Interestingly, this curse does not go away during the Millennial reign of Christ

Isaiah 65:25 *The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain," says the LORD.*

- This curse does not hurt the serpent
 - The curse is to remind us of Satan's humiliation and defeat

II. Satan's Curse (15)

- Inciting rebellion
 - Satan rebelled against God
 - He successfully convinced 1/3 of angels to join him in his rebellion
 - He thinks he has won when he successfully convinces Eve to join him
 - And Adam joined with the woman in rebellion
 - Man became a friend of Satan and enemy of God
 - Satan thinks he has successfully defeated God in his rebellion
- God's sovereignty
 - Satan's rebellion and man's sin did not threaten God's sovereignty
 - God is not a victim of Satan
 - God pronounced curse on all that were involved
- Enmity between woman and Satan
 - Enmity – deep hatred between persons

- God reverses the consequences on Satan
- God reverses man as an enemy of God to enemy of Satan
- God's grace and election
 - Man chose Satan over God
 - Yet God provides man salvation
 - He does this by election

Ephesians 1:4-6 *For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love 5 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.*

- Note that God is doing the work—"I will put"
- How?
 - By change in heart
 - Changing man's nature
 - Regeneration (born again)

John 3:3,5 *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."*

Ezekiel 36:25-27 *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.*

- Enmity between woman's seed and Satan's seed
 - People of God versus people of Satan
 - Jesus versus religious leaders

John 8:42-44 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on My own; but He sent Me. 43 Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- Continual conflict...to this day and until Jesus comes back

John 15:18-19 *If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*

- Woman's seed—He
 - One special individual
 - Jesus Christ
 - Born of a virgin
 - Women do not carry seeds, only men
- Satan's complete and utter defeat
 - Crush his head

- God tells Satan that he will be completely defeated
- God never identifies who “He” is
 - Satan has over the years tried to kill godly men
 - Moses—Egyptians
 - Elijah—Ahab killing prophets
 - Herod—ordered the killing of all males 2 and under
 - This has been going on for years

Revelation 12:1-5 *A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. 4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her Child the moment it was born. 5 She gave birth to a Son, a male Child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her Child was snatched up to God and to His throne.*

- Bruise His heel
 - Satan would never be able to even stop what God has planned
 - Satan had fully invested in killing Jesus

Luke 22:52-53 *Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."*

- But he ended up only bruising Him—a light wound!

Isaiah 53:5 *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

Coram Deo

God gives us the glorious gospel in the judgment of Satan. He has not yet given judgment to man or woman, and before He does this, He gives them hope, mercy, and salvation.

Romans 5:20b *But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,*

What a glorious God we serve!