

THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON

Genesis 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.*

This Scripture introduces God's great plan of redemption. Right in the moment of human failure, God's mercy enters with a promise of salvation.

With the entrance of sin, God declares unending conflict between man and Satan, and He predicts the coming of Christ, and the final defeat of Satan.

The phrase, "...you will strike his heel", refers to Satan's repeated attempts to defeat Jesus during His life on earth. "He will crush your head", predicts Satan's ultimate defeat when Jesus rose from the dead.

Therefore, God warned both Satan and fallen man that a;

1. A Conflict would Begin

Enmity: *Hostility, animosity, a deep seated dislike or ill will towards someone.*

Mankind will only be able to find release from the grip of Satan by the saving hand of God.

The purpose of God in declaring unending conflict between the powers of evil and the human race was to establish a basis of victory for man.

Satan's one aim is always *"to steal, to kill, and to destroy."* **John 10:10**

Satan sought to enlist Jesus into his service, only so he might destroy Him.

Matthew 4:1-10

The same enemy entices us; but like Jesus, we must reject and resist him.

James 4:7 *...submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

We must understand that Satan has a strategy for our defeat.

2. Satan's Strategy for our Defeat

2 Corinthians 2:11 (kjv) *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

2:11 (niv) *In order that Satan might not outwit (or outsmart) us, for we are not unaware of his schemes.*

Advantage - *(outwitted or outsmarted).*

Greek word: '**planet.**' Meaning - "To go around - to orbit."

1 Peter 5:8 *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

Schemes - (secretly plotting against).

Greek word: '*noema.*' Meaning - "To have a definite thought against. To ponder at length planning precisely someone's demise or defeat."

We must be on our guard and ready to defend ourselves by using God's armour and weaponry that is available to us against our enemy's works.

By decreeing no ceasefire in the war between Satan and man, God intended to make us carry the weight of our sin, and by this, bring us to the place of repentance, calling upon God to deliver us from the penalty of sin.

But what was God's means of deliverance?

3. A Champion Would Be Sent!

Satan mustered all his forces in trying to prevent Christ from being born, and to stop Him from fulfilling His mission.

Yet despite this frenzy of hatred and violence against Jesus, Satan failed.

A Minor Wound

All this left Christ, with a minor wound, a "*bruised heel*" which is a graphic way of saying Satan was incapable of dealing a mortal blow to Christ.

Whatever greater depths of suffering Christ endured at Calvary were pains that He Himself willingly embraced. They were not imposed on Him.

John 10:17-18 *No one can take my life. I lay it down by myself. And I shall take it up again.*

Jesus as a man became the first person in history whom death could not forcibly grasp. Jesus nullified death's power and removed its sting.

A Glorious Triumph

By deliberately yielding Himself to death and after three days, shaking Himself free of it, Christ brought into reality **a new concept of God's power.**

In Christ a new standard had been achieved: **the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is now the supreme demonstration of Divine might.**

If, God was able to raise Jesus from the dead, then there cannot be no limit to what God can do for **us**, if we believe as Jesus did!

Paul declared; "*How immeasurably great is His power in us who believe! It is according to the working of His great might which He accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead!*" **Ephesians 1:18-21**

Death was the devil's most powerful, most feared weapon. Christ tore that weapon right out of the enemy's hand and diffused its sting.

4. A Victory would be Gained!

While the Serpent could do no more than strike Jesus' heel, it was said of the Lord, "*would crush (Satan's) head!*" The contrast is between a superficial wound and a mortal one.

The idea is that the **heel** of the Saviour would be **scratched**, whereas the **head** of the Serpent would be **crushed**.

What is meant by the devil's "*head*"?

Surely his most dread weapons - those things that comprise his chief power, and that spearhead his every attack: **sin, the law, death** -

Sin: Christ conquered sin by being made sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

The law: Christ conquered by fulfilling on our behalf its every demand, bearing the full weight of its fury upon His own body at Calvary, and so removing its penalty from us forever (**Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:13**).

Death: Christ conquered by surrendering Himself to it, and then shaking Himself free from its awful darkness, rising radiantly into God's light.

Jesus WON! And by His victory we too are made more than conquerors.

Conclusion

The challenge is before us to believe this gospel fully, and to know that the Serpent's power is utterly broken.

Let us no longer fear sin, or sickness, or death. See our enemy as God sees him, dejected, defeated and broken.