

Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11

July 4th, 2021

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The War Beneath Our Battles (Genesis 3:14-15)

"The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

(Genesis 3:14-15)

1. The Chief Villain

2. The Root Conflict

3. The Promised Hero

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. In Genesis 3:14, God addresses the Serpent. How does God confront the Serpent? How does this differ from his confrontation with Adam and Eve (compare 3:7-13, 16-21)? What curse does God place on the serpent (see Isaiah 65:25)? What does this signify about the fate of this character? Who is the chief villain in the biblical storyline (see Revelation 12:9; 20:2)?
3. How does Genesis 3:15 prepare us for the ongoing conflict that will unfold in Scripture (compare Revelation 12:1f)? How is God's decision to place enmity between the woman and the serpent an act of grace? What is the offspring (or seed) of the woman? What is the offspring (or seed) of the serpent? How do these war with each other throughout the biblical story? How does this fundamental conflict illuminate the way we look at other conflicts in the biblical story (see Genesis 4:1f; Exodus 1:10f; 1 Samuel 17:5; John 8:44f)?
4. What hope does God lay out here? Why is it significant that humanity's hope lies in the seed of the woman (rather than the seed of the man)? What does it mean that the Serpent will strike the "heel" of Eve's descendant(s)? What does it mean that one of Eve's descendants will strike the Serpent's "head"? What new name does Adam give his wife in light of this (3:20)? How does this action reveal his trust in God's promise? How is the promise of Genesis 3:15 ultimately fulfilled in Jesus (See Hebrews 2:6-15)?

Application:

5. Read Ephesians 6:12. How does viewing our primary enemy as spiritual (rather than physical) change the way we engage conflict? The way we pray?
6. Read 1 John 3:8-10. How does Christ make us sons and daughters of God? How will this transformation be reflected in our behavior? How does this change the way we think about the ongoing conflict with sin in our own lives?
7. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?