

God's Promise of Redemption

Lesson for Sunday, March 5, 2023

TEXT: Genesis 3:15

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Welcome to Week #4 in our series, "The Whole Story of the Bible in 16 Verses!" Review:
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God's image.
 - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
- ⇒ At the end of last week's lesson things were bleak. It was one of the darkest chapters in all the Bible.
- ⇒ But remember Romans 8:28 – God is always working! Better yet, He is working for our good! Even when the times are dark and depressing, God is working.
- ⇒ William Cowper wrote a beautiful hymn called, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way."
 - God moves in a mysterious way - His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea - And rides upon the storm
 - Judge not the Lord by feeble sense - But trust Him for His grace
Behind a frowning providence - He hides a smiling face.
- ⇒ In today's text, we see God's blueprint for humanity's hope.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Cursed Serpent (Genesis 3:15)
 - a. Last week, we briefly looked at how the result of sin impacted Adam and Eve. But it's important to remember that the serpent didn't escape God's judgment either!
 - b. Read verses 14-15 and have the class note the curses that the serpent received:
 - i. Cursed more than all cattle (14)
 - ii. Cursed more than every beast of the field (14)
 - iii. Cursed to crawl on his belly (14)
 - iv. Cursed to eat dust perpetually (14)
 - v. But there's more!
 - c. Verse 15:
 - i. Cursed to be at enmity with the woman
 1. The word "enmity" means hatred or hostility.
 2. Part of the curse included the serpent being the enemy of the woman.
 - ii. Cursed to have his seed at enmity with the woman's seed.
 1. The serpent's seed would be in perpetual war with the woman's seed.
 2. The woman's seed is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ the Messiah.
 - iii. Cursed to be defeated by the woman's seed.
 1. The serpent will "bruise his heel." This is a reference to a minor wound.
 2. The woman's seed will "bruise thy head." A reference to a mortal wound.
 - d. In the last two weeks, we have seen that the consequences of sin would be serious. But verse 15 reminds us that God would not allow sin to have the last word!
2. The Continuing Conflict
 - a. In God's words in verse 15, we find a pattern for the conflict that has continued ever since.

- b. It began in 4:1, when Eve gave birth to Cain. It seems that Eve could have believed that Cain could be God's promised seed.
 - i. "I have gotten a man from the Lord" literally reads, "I have gotten a man, Yahweh."
 - ii. But instead of Cain crushing the head of Satan, he crushed the head of his brother! It's almost as if Satan was trying to turn the words of Genesis 3:15 around.
 - c. In 4:25, God gave them a new seed, Seth, and God's promised line would continue through him. But we don't have to read much farther to realize that Seth was not the one.
 - i. As we read through chapters 5-6 we see that the majority of Adam and Eve's descendants were choosing to defect to the line of the serpent.
 - ii. These were running from God's original design and commands. They were multiplying in their wickedness.
 - d. As we read these early chapters we note two critical themes:
 - i. First, the enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman is very real. It is easily observed that the serpent is serious about contesting God's plan at every turn.
 - ii. Second, the serpent and his seed are committed to do everything possible to turn God's prophecy in 3:15 around and crush the head of the woman's seed.
3. The Imbalance of Power
- a. When we read of the conflict between the serpent and the woman's seed, remember that this is not a fair fight. The serpent doesn't stand a chance!
 - b. In the early chapters of Genesis, we learn that when God decides to show the seed of the serpent what He can do, the true imbalance of power becomes crystal clear.
 - i. The Flood – read Genesis 7:17-24. At this point, God chose to wipe out the entire line of the serpent at one time.
 - ii. The Tower – read Genesis 11:4, 7-9. The serpent's seed was thriving again and God brought confusion and chaos as judgment, immediately putting a halt to their plans.
 - c. The rest of human history is just the outworking of Genesis 3:15.
 - i. The days are dark. Sin seems to be winning.
 - ii. But the promise from God in Genesis 3:15 will never be in doubt.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Review the first four parts (make it creative – see who is learning and remembering):
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God's image.
 - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
 - Genesis 3:15 – God's promise of redemption.
- ⇒ What hope can we take from this Bible study?