

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

November 25, 2017

DESTROYING THE SERPENT

The first great prophecy of Christ was spoken by God on the same day Adam and Eve obeyed the voice of the Serpent and ate the forbidden fruit. This great act of rebellion cast heaven and earth into turmoil. I personally believe that the deception of Eve by the Serpent Genesis 3:1-5 and iniquity being found in *"...the anointed cherub that covereth"* Ezekiel 28:15 are describing the same event. God spoke to the *"anointed cherub,"* saying, *"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God" and "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."* Ezekiel 28:13-16.

God's judgment towards the Serpent began with these words: *"Because thou hast done this..."* Genesis 3:14. These words seem to express God's feeling of betrayal toward the covering cherub who had been given access to the garden of God. The Serpent had cast aside his sacred calling and in his rebellion brought iniquity into both heaven and earth. This betrayal was the first great step in fulfilling Lucifer's ambition to *"be like the most High."* Isaiah 14:12-14. In one successful ploy he stole the one creation that was made in God's own image and imparted into it the nature of the Serpent, which is SIN. Satan was now the god of this world and the lord of fallen humanity.

Because of what he had done, God pronounced his judgement upon the Serpent,

saying, *“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* Genesis 3:15. This first great prophecy of redemption tells us so much concerning the Christ who was to come.

1. Christ would be born of a woman. *“...her seed.”*
2. Christ would suffer at the hands of the Serpent. *“...thou shalt bruise his heel.”*
3. Christ would destroy the Serpent. *“...it shall bruise thy head.”*

The apostle John wrote something that was common knowledge to every believer in his day. He said, *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.”* 1 John 3:8. Satan’s work brought sin into the world, therefore those who committed sin were *“of the devil.”* Yet Christ came to *“destroy the works of the devil!”* John knew by the scripture that the work of Christ was to bruise the head of the Serpent, and thereby destroy the works of the devil and deliver the people from sin.

Jesus revealed this as his mission a few days before his crucifixion. He said, *“Now is the judgment of this world: NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT.”* John 12:31. Since the hour of his rebellion, Satan enjoyed access to wreak turmoil both in Heaven and earth. Michael and the angels of Heaven contended with Satan Jude 1:9, but were not able to overcome him or cast him out. Such was his foothold in the heavens that it seems he was able to come unhindered

before God. He was identified as *"...the accuser of our brethren..., which accused them before our God day and night."* Revelation 12:10. Yet Christ was sent *"in the likeness of sinful flesh"* Romans 8:3 to do what no one else was capable of accomplishing. The Bible says, *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;"* Hebrews 2:14. Jesus shared with the disciples what he has seen of his Father concerning what would happen on the cross, saying, *"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."* Luke 10:18. This was part of *"...the joy that was set before him"* if he would *"endure the cross."* Hebrews 12:2.

We know the very day that Satan was defeated and cast out of Heaven. The scripture says, *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, NOW IS COME SALVATION, AND STRENGTH, AND THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, AND THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* Revelation 12:7-11. Look at what was spoken when Satan was cast out:

Now is come ...SALVATION! The Serpent was cast out on the very day that our salvation came!

Now is come ...STRENGTH! Paul wrote, *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* Romans 5:6. Satan was cast out

of Heaven in the same hour that STRENGTH came to us who trust in Christ!

Now is come ...THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD!

When Jesus was crucified and resurrected, the kingdom of God came into being for whosoever would believe the gospel of Christ. Christ's blood not only purged sin from the hearts' of the believers, but it purified the Heaven's also from the presence of the serpent. Hebrews 9:23.

There are some simple gospel truths about Satan that every child of God needs to know.

1. Satan cannot accuse you before God as he did Job. The accuser of the brethren has been cast out! Paul asked: *"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?"* Romans 8:33.
2. There is no Devil in Christ! Those who abide in Christ do not need to fear Satan at all. He has no "power over" or "place" in them.
3. The work of Satan has been destroyed! Sin has no power or presence in those who simply abide in Christ. John wrote, *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not..."* John 3:5-6.

Our "spiritual warfare" is NOT for our victory over sin or Satan. That victory was won by Christ Jesus alone and freely given to us who believe the gospel of Christ. Our warfare is to preach the truth that tears down the *"gates of Hell"* Matthew 16:18 which are holding those who are still blind to the gospel of Christ. We are commissioned to tell the whole world that Jesus is the Christ, who

through giving his life on the cross, destroyed the works of the devil. Anyone who will believe the report will walk free from Satan and Sin forevermore!