

Session 3 | Dr. Randy White | Genesis 3

- There is the curse on the physical animal (v. 14)
  - Hebrew is נָחָשׁ [nahas], a snake. See 2 Kings 18:4, where the bronze serpent was the *Nehushtan*. The same root word means *omen* (see Numbers 23:23).
  - The *nahas* must have been a much different creation prior to the curse.
  - Though Satan just inhabited one snake, all snakes were cursed as a reminder.
- There is the prophecy of the coming Antichrist and the nation of Israel. (v. 16)
  - Who could the “seed of the serpent” be, other than the Antichrist?
  - The seed is not the serpent, just like the seed of the woman is not the woman.
- There is the prophecy of the ultimate destruction of Satan by the descendant of the woman. (v. 16)
  - Verse 16 moves from talking about the **seed** of the serpent to the **head** of the serpent.
  - The promise is that the **seed** would **bruise** the **head**.
    - To **bruise** is to “grip so hard as to destroy.”
    - Job 9:17
    - Psalm 139:11
- From this point onward, the key to understanding the Hebrew Scriptures is answering the question: Who is the Promised Seed that will destroy the serpent?
  - While we know much more than Adam and Eve knew, we should look forward, saying, “*all they know is the prophecy of the overwhelming blow, so how do they respond?*”
    - Their response displays a clear evidence that they understood this promise to be their salvation and only hope.
- From Gen 3 on, the story of the Bible is the anticipation of a man, born of a woman.
  - This very broad promise is slowly narrowed to the point that its fulfillment can be seen with pinpoint accuracy in the New Testament.
  - The understanding of the importance of the **seed** explains some very unusual instructions and stories in the Bible
    - Why was childlessness met with almost unmatched despair?
    - Why was a widow to have a child by her brother-in-law, even if he was married to another woman?
    - Why is the story of Tamar (Genesis 38) included in the Bible, when the story wouldn’t be allowed in most libraries?
- At the end of the Bible, in Rev. 5:1-5, John weeps for the One who can **open the seals** which will be the final blow to the serpent.

NEXT WEEK -- The Flood: Starting Over