

CHAPTER SEVEN

BRUISE THY HEAD

In the third chapter of Genesis, we are going to see the main reason why God came up with His Plan of Salvation, His GPS, before the creation was ever started. First, however, let me give you some information about the third chapter of Genesis. It is one of the most important chapters in all the Word of God. The foundation for many of the cardinal doctrines of our faith is found in this chapter. An explanation for the present fallen and ruined condition of our race is recorded here. The devices of our enemy, the devil, are noted in this chapter. The utter powerlessness of man to walk in the path of righteousness by his own strength is shown here.

Sin is exposed for what it is. We can learn God's attitude toward sin and how it differs from his attitude toward the sinner. We are told how man's nature makes him want to hide his sin from God instead of running to God for help. We are taught of the gracious provision which God has made to meet our greatest need. The first-prophecy regarding Christ as the Redeemer is given in this chapter. Here we learn that man cannot approach God except through a mediator.

Adam had let down his guard over the garden. The enemy of God got into the garden. This was a great error on Adam's part. He should have spoken words of authority and commanded satan to stay away from the garden. He should have told satan that God had given the authority to rule the earth to mankind, and that no other being had any right to the control of the earth. But Adam did not do this! Satan now had taken on the form of a serpent. This was his only means of operation here on the earth. A disembodied spirit cannot function in the realm of the physical for very long period of time. So satan had to have some sort of body.

Satan saw Adam and Eve after they were placed on the earth. He put two and two together and figured out that mankind was going to be the third party who would one day work with Jesus to be his judge. So, he came up with the bright idea, since they are going to be my judge, I am going to try to lie to them and bribe them. I am going to get them on my side of the conflict rather than on God's side or at least confuse them to where they will not know the difference between good and evil.

Cunningly, satan approached the woman. His intent was to use her to get back at God. He was determined to destroy the inheritance that God had given to Jesus. The women had not talked directly with God. This made her an easy target. The only information she had was second-hand. So, satan approached her.

GEN 3:1

1 NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE SUBTIL THAN ANY BEAST OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE. AND HE SAID UNTO THE WOMAN, YEA, HATH GOD SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN?

Satan was really trying to get the woman to act independently of Adam. This was the origin of the women's movement which strives to bring about role reversal. He asked her a negatively arranged question in order to stir up mistrust and to weaken the force of the prohibition. God had really said that they could eat freely of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan used the word *Elohim* for God, meaning God is the God of creation. He did this to discredit any personal relationship between God and the couple in the garden. The woman was unaware of his intention. She, therefore, did not respond by stating that God was Jehovah to Adam and her. Jehovah is the name which shows God as a Covenant-God for mankind. The woman simply allowed herself to be drawn into the argument.

GEN 3:2, 3

1 AND THE WOMAN SAID UNTO THE SERPENT, WE MAY EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREES OF THE GARDEN:

2 BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, GOD HATH SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL YE TOUCH IT, LEST YE DIE.

The woman, not knowing exactly which tree was forbidden, answered that they could eat freely, except for one of those trees in the middle of the garden. Adam should have already taken her to the Tree of Life, but he had not. Neither of the pair had indulged in eternal life as God had wanted them to do. The woman, with good intentions, tried to correct the serpent and, in so doing, she actually made the prohibition stronger than what God had said. She added to God's Word by stating that they were not to touch the tree. This was her first real wavering. She was actually, but unintentionally, convincing herself that the prohibition was too strict. She then weakened the prohibition when she added that they would die. Apparently, doubt was beginning to get hold on the woman's mind. She was questioning whether God was really being fair to her husband and her.

GEN 3:3-5

3 BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, GOD HATH SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL YE TOUCH IT, LEST YE DIE.

4 AND THE SERPENT SAID UNTO THE WOMAN, YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE.

5 FOR GOD DOETH KNOW THAT IN THE DAY YE EAT THEREOF, THEN YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED, AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.

In these verses, satan denies the truth of God's prohibition. Mocking God's language, satan says that instead of their eyes closing in death, they will really be opened for the first time. He wanted the woman to believe that by eating the fruit she would be wonderfully enlightened and at the same time raised to a divine glory. In fact, she would

be like God Himself. The woman did not understand that satan was plainly stating that this was really a spiritual matter by saying that she would become like God. He convinced her that she would no longer need God's divine direction. Satan's emphasis was not on greater intelligence, but rather on total independence from God. She could become qualified to be a good judge without God's help.

Satan also implied that God was holding out on the couple. According to him, God enviously held back their happiness. Satan put into his conversation just enough truth to make it sound convincing. For instance, he said that death would not immediately follow. He made it sound as if only good would result from eating the fruit. He was trying to get even with God by destroying the God-like image that had been put in mankind.

The temptation was now complete. Satan knew that by getting the couple to eat of the forbidden fruit, they would be breaking God's Law of Love. Their relationship with God would be broken. They would no longer be qualified citizens and would not be able to play a part in judging him in the future.

GEN 3:6

6 AND WHEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD, AND THAT IT WAS PLEASANT TO THE EYES, AND A TREE TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, SHE TOOK OF THE FRUIT THEREOF, AND DID EAT, AND GAVE ALSO UNTO HER HUSBAND WITH HER; AND HE DID EAT.

Satan had managed to get through to the woman's mind. He got her to rely on her senses rather than on her spirit. The fruit appeared as if it would taste good. This was appealing to the lust of the flesh. The fruit was pleasant to the eye, bright and shiny. This was appealing to the lust of the eyes. The fruit was desired for wisdom. This was the pride of life. The woman's eyes caused her to eat the fruit. Eve had a lack of knowledge and was destroyed as a result. Her heart was now in the hands of satan. The woman turned to Adam, who must have been standing silently by. He still did not use his God-given authority. He just watched and saw that the woman did not fall over dead.

So, without any hesitation and without any temptation, Adam also ate of the fruit. Since God had personally instructed him, this willful decision to eat of the fruit was a sin. Adam's decision to push God's instruction aside made him subject to the word of satan. This was definitely an act against God. It was treason! Adam had become a traitor. Everything that God had given to Adam was now subject to the will of satan. Adam had lost everything! He no longer could make the earth the right kind of place to be a glorious inheritance for Jesus. He could no longer produce the third party that God needed for the judging of satan.

Half of what satan said came to pass. Their eyes were opened. They, however, did not see what they had expected to see. They had gained a self-consciousness and they saw that they were naked, totally defenseless. The brightness of the glory of God was no longer on them. Their physical bodies were totally exposed. They had replaced God's glory with carnality by allowing satan to have power over them. A war had occurred between the

flesh and the spirits of the couple. The flesh had won. Spiritual death had set in. Guilt filled both of the individuals. They wanted to cover up their guilt, shame, and sin. They did cover their unglorified bodies by sewing fig leaves together. But this was not enough to relieve them from the sin against God.

GEN 3:7

7 AND THE EYES OF THEM BOTH WERE OPENED, AND THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE NAKED; AND THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER, AND MADE THEMSELVES APRONS.

The fig tree was the only thing that our Lord cursed while He was here on earth. This is symbolically saying that Christ curses that which man employs to hide his spiritual shame. Man bears no fruit and is doomed to quickly wither when he attempts to hide sin from God.

As evening approached, Adam and his wife had spent some time reflecting on what they had done. Probably, their sense of guilt had grown very strong. It was at this point of feeling very low that God came to them. He did not come to force Himself upon them, but to let them know that He had not forsaken them. He came with a yearning love. He wanted to manifest His Law of Love to them again. It was God who was seeking Adam rather than Adam seeking God. God came to offer His Plan of Salvation, His GPS, and to restore them to citizenship in His kingdom. His purpose was to help them once again become the judges that would assist Jesus Christ in judging satan.

God still seeks sinners today. Instead of accepting His presence with joy, they hid from God. Surely a desire for the truth and God's fellowship must still have down inside of them. Yet, under the guise of modesty, they tried to hide their sin and themselves from God.

GEN 3:8

8 AND THEY HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY: AND ADAM AND HIS WIFE HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD AMONGST THE TREES OF THE GARDEN.

God made the first move. He called the couple, now sinners, to let them know that they were not hidden from His knowledge, only His companionship. God particularly called out to Adam since he was the head of the woman. Also, it had been Adam who had committed the sin willfully. He still calls out to sinners even in our day and time.

GEN 3:9

9 AND THE LORD GOD CALLED UNTO ADAM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, WHERE ART THOU?

Adam told God that when he heard Him in the garden, he became afraid. In reality, Adam had become even more conscious of his sin. You see, the presence of God

makes one more aware of his failure to obey God. Sin then has the tendency to make the sinner conscious of punishment. Fear results, when it should be that the presence of God would make the sinner want to restore spiritual communication with Him. Adam acknowledged to God that he was naked. God then asked Adam how he knew that he was naked. He then asked Adam if he had eaten from the forbidden tree. The question was stated in such a way that Adam knew that God already knew the answer.

So, Adam began to try to defend himself. He blamed his wife and then he blamed God for giving him the wife. Adam actually was shielding the devil. Surely, this was unintentional.

GEN 3:10-12

10 AND HE SAID, I HEARD THY VOICE IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID, BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; AND I HID MYSELF.

11 AND HE SAID, WHO TOLD THEE THAT THOU WAST NAKED? HAST THOU EATEN OF THE TREE, WHEREOF I COMMANDED THEE THAT THOU SHOULDEST NOT EAT?

12 AND THE MAN SAID, THE WOMAN WHOM THOU GAVEST TO BE WITH ME, SHE GAVE ME OF THE TREE, AND I DID EAT.

God did not even acknowledge that HE had heard Adam's excuses. God just turned to the woman.

GEN 3:13

13 AND THE LORD GOD SAID UNTO THE WOMAN, WHAT IS THIS THAT THOU HAST DONE? AND THE WOMAN SAID, THE SERPENT BEGUILED ME, AND I DID EAT.

Notice that the woman did not blame Adam. She placed the blame where it belonged. God then turned to the source of all evil. He pronounced judgment upon satan, who could do nothing about it, but take it. God told him that he was cursed. He would have to crawl on his belly and eat dust. Instantly, a miracle occurred. Satan was struck down to the ground. God had already told satan that this was going to happen. The curse was not finished.

GEN 3:14-15

14 AND THE LORD GOD SAID UNTO THE SERPENT, BECAUSE THOU HAST DONE THIS, THOU ART CURSED ABOVE ALL CATTLE, AND ABOVE EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD; UPON THY BELLY SHALT THOU GO, AND DUST SHALT THOU EAT ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE:

15 AND 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.

God told satan that He would cause hostility to exist between the woman and him. Because the woman had been deceived by satan, this hostility would be continuous, even to

all future generations. Verse 15 contains the first proclamation of the gospel, God's GPS. All of the richness, the mercy, the sorrow, and the glory of God's redeeming work with man is here. God promises to bring a Redeemer from the Seed of the woman. He will be completely human yet divinely begotten which also makes Him completely God at the same time. (This was fulfilled in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1. Verses 34 and 35.) That serpent of old, called the devil, would war with the Seed and would smite Him. But even as the serpent struck at His heel, the Seed's foot would descend crushing the serpent's head. This indicates that not just the head of the serpent would be crushed, but everything over which satan is the head would be crushed. As God worded it, satan may bruise the heel of Jesus and temporarily hinder the work of our Lord, but Jesus will obtain the final victory, as well as victories along the way. Actually, satan bruised the heel of Jesus by having Jesus crucified. In fact, I understand that it was customary to drive a spike through the heels of the person being crucified. Jesus will not finish bruising satan's head until satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit.

HEB 2:14

14 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;

I JN 3:8

8 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.

EPH 1:17

17 THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY, MAY GIVE UNTO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM:

EPH 1:19-23

**19 AND WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO US-WARD WHO BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS MIGHTY POWER,
20 WHICH HE WROUGHT IN CHRIST, WHEN HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, AND SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES,
21 FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITY, AND POWER, AND MIGHT, AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, NOT ONLY IN THIS WORLD, BUT ALSO IN THAT WHICH IS TO COME:
22 AND HATH PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, AND GAVE HIM TO BE THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH,
23 WHICH IS HIS BODY, THE FULNESS OF HIM THAT FILLETH ALL IN ALL.**

This means that Christ is already victorious over satan. The feet of Christ remain firmly placed on the head of satan. Since we, the Church, are the body of Christ and He is

our Head, then that means satan is under our feet. Satan is paralyzed. By Jesus' death and resurrection He defeated satan and made a public spectacle of the powers of hell.

From a biological standpoint, the female does not have the seed. Only the male sperm is considered the seed. Spiritually, however, the Word of God is the seed as will be shown when we study about Mary's conceiving baby Jesus. Galatians 3:19 states that Jesus, who is the Word, is also the "Seed."

Notice that this revelation which God gave to Adam and Eve was given to them even though they were now in a fallen state. God still reaches out to all lost people. He desires their accepting His call. The woman is not directly cursed, although it is obvious she comes under God's general curse. Rather, there will be a major marring of her appointed roles as wife and mother. Maternity will be with great suffering, a particularly disappointing consequence to Old Testament women who saw large families as a sign of blessing. He also told her that she was to be subject to her husband.

In the garden, Eve had had joint-rule with Adam, but now she would have to control the desire to rule over her husband. He was to fill the servant-leader role. There is no evidence that this was ever intended as a diminishing of the woman's person or giftedness, but rather as a redemptive role assigned the husband toward the wife as a means toward reinstating the original partnership.

GEN 3:16

16 UNTO THE WOMAN HE SAID, I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY THY SORROW AND THY CONCEPTION; IN SORROW THOU SHALT BRING FORTH CHILDREN; AND THY DESIRE SHALL BE TO THY HUSBAND, AND HE SHALL RULE OVER THEE.

Adam is also spared a direct cursing. His major mistake was in heeding the voice of his wife rather than the voice of God. As the one having the greatest responsibility, his sentence is the longest and most comprehensive. To Adam, God said that he would have to now work to fulfill his fundamental role as provider for his family. The ground would now work against him by producing non-edible plants. The ground was now cursed. Christ was made a curse for us. Man was now to eat of the ground in sorrow all the days of his life. Christ became a man of sorrows. The ground would now produce thorns and thistles. Christ wore a crown of thorns. It was to be by the sweat of his face that man would eat his bread. Christ's sweat was like great drop of blood. Man would return to dust. Psalm 22:15 says that Jesus would be made into the dust of death.

PS 22:15

15 MY STRENGTH IS DRIED UP LIKE A POTSDHERD; AND MY TONGUE CLEAVETH TO MY JAWS; AND THOU HAST BROUGHT ME INTO THE DUST OF DEATH.

Last of all, God told Adam that he would suffer physical death.

GEN 3:17-19

17 AND UNTO ADAM HE SAID, BECAUSE THOU HAST HEARKENED UNTO THE VOICE OF THY WIFE, AND HAST EATEN OF THE TREE, OF WHICH I COMMANDED THEE, SAYING, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR THY SAKE; IN SORROW SHALT THOU EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE;

18 THORNS ALSO AND THISTLES SHALL IT BRING FORTH TO THEE; AND THOU SHALT EAT THE HERB OF THE FIELD;

19 IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT BREAD, TILL THOU RETURN UNTO THE GROUND; FOR OUT OF IT WAST THOU TAKEN: FOR DUST THOU ART, AND UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.

1 COR 15:21-22

21 FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH, BY MAN CAME ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

22 FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE.

There is an indication that throughout the pronouncement of doom, Adam had kept his eye fixed on the promised "Seed" that would destroy satan. With that in mind, knowing that his wife would be the channel through which God would bring about the "Head-bruise," Adam called his wife Eve.

GEN 3:20

20 AND ADAM CALLED HIS WIFE'S NAME EVE; BECAUSE SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF ALL LIVING.

God, in this message in the garden, was preaching the first Gospel message—not just in words, but also in symbolism. He was showing that a sinful creature could be redeemed and restored to the Creator.

GEN 3:21-22

21 UNTO ADAM ALSO AND TO HIS WIFE DID THE LORD GOD MAKE COATS OF SKINS, AND CLOTHED THEM.

22 AND THE LORD GOD SAID, BEHOLD, THE MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US, TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL: AND NOW, LEST HE PUT FORTH HIS HAND, AND TAKE ALSO OF THE TREE OF LIFE, AND EAT, AND LIVE FOR EVER:

God now laid the foundation for salvation by making a sacrificial offering, shedding the blood of animals. Adam and Eve's nakedness was covered with the skins of the animals. This was to be the means for covering the sin of mankind until the true, once-for-all-time sacrifice would be made by Jesus Christ. Actually, it had already happened in heaven, but it would be carried out on earth as well.

REV 13:8

8 . . . THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

The death of the animals foreshadowed the death of the Son of God. God did the work. Adam and Eve did nothing. Mankind cannot earn by works his salvation. This is God's grace in action. God even provided the sacrifice for Adam and Eve and for us. God had said that if the couple ate from the forbidden tree, they would surely die.

GENESIS 2:16-17

16 AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN, SAYING, OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST FREELY EAT:

17 BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.

God was referring to immediate spiritual death. Adam existed for 930 years, physically speaking, but physical existence is not really living. The spirit of man is where real life exists and that only when the presence of God is living in the individual.

Because of his sin, Adam lost the Holy Spirit Breath of Life and the Light of Life. God could no longer walk with him. He lost the dominion over the creatures and everything that pretains to life and godliness.

A quick review of this material lets us know that Adam was the first man born again. The problem with that is that he was born the wrong way—from spiritual life unto death. We, however, through Jesus are born from death unto life. Adam and Eve were now conscious of both good and evil.

GEN 3:23-24

23 THEREFORE THE LORD GOD SENT HIM FORTH FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN,

TO TILL THE GROUND FROM WHENCE HE WAS TAKEN.

24 SO HE DROVE OUT THE MAN; AND HE PLACED AT THE EAST OF THE GARDEN

OF EDEN CHERUBIMS, AND A FLAMING SWORD WHICH TURNED EVERY WAY, TO KEEP THE WAY OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

An angel with a flaming sword would keep man from getting to the Tree of Life. This was to prevent them from deciding that they now should eat of the Tree of Life. If that had happened, they would have been eternally doomed in a sinful state. This is contrary to the will of God Who desires no one to be separated from A sword pierced the side of Jesus. The threat that man would die would come to pass. Jesus died both physically and spiritually for us. Christ reversed the effects of the fall and actually brought in a better thing. The redeemed have gained more through Christ than they lost through Adam. They occupy a more exalted position. Adam dwelt in an earthly Paradise, but the redeemed have been made to sit in heavenly places with Christ. Adam possessed a natural

life, but the redeemed have been made partakers of the Divine nature. Adam was originally in a innocent state, but the redeemed have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Adam was lord of Eden. Believers are the “heir of all things.” Through grace we have been made capable of a deeper joy than what unfallen spirits have known: the bliss of pardoned sin, and the heaven of deep conscious obligation to Divine mercy. In Christ believers enjoy a closer relationship to God than was possible before the fall. Adam was merely a creature, but we are members of the Body of Christ. We are the brethren of Christ. God is now ready to proceed with His GPS that was foreordained before the foundation of the world.