

## **The Wounded Head**

**By Elder David Pyles**

*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. – Gen 3:15*

This scripture is the oldest prophecy in the world and is the first of a multitude of biblical prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. It was spoken to the serpent in Eden, though all understand this serpent was a manifestation of Satan. The prophecy declared that one would be born to the woman, or to Eve, who would strike the head of the serpent in vengeance for what he had done in causing the downfall and death of man. God created man in His own image, and therefore gave him highest rank among all His creatures, but God also created other intelligent life, known in the Bible as “angels,” and numerous of these, being led by Satan, rebelled against God, evidently in objection to the lower rank they had been given. They have been seeking the downfall of man ever since.

These facts lay the groundwork for the saga that will become the Bible and serve to explain many things in the book. In particular, they explain why God did not instantly destroy Satan in the beginning. This would have actually served as partial vindication to him. If Satan had successfully brought man down, and only God could bring down Satan, then this would support Satan’s claim that he and his accomplices should not have been given inferior rank to men. Therefore, to enforce the order He had originally ordained, God purposed to destroy Satan by the very means of man, which He planned to do by raising up a Champion among them to land the blow to the serpent’s head that the first prophecy predicted. This Champion was curiously described as the seed of the woman. The Bible elsewhere uses the word “seed” with reference to the father, not the mother. The reason for this anomalous use of the term would become clear later when Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin.

Other things in the Bible that are explained by this groundwork include God’s hatred for images and why so much of the Old Testament was about this subject. The true image of God is man, and is perfected in Jesus Christ. When men bow in worship to images, they denigrate both themselves and their Creator. This

groundwork also explains why the Bible will later consider a denial of Christ's humanity as being egregious heresy. The simple-minded might think it a complement to say Christ was an angel or other extra-terrestrial, but the Bible denounces this as the doctrine of antichrist. It is a doctrine that strikes at the very foundation of the book, contradicting its very first prophecy, and is a doctrine that Satan himself would like to believe. God decreed from the beginning that a *man* would destroy Satan. That man is Jesus Christ. While He is both eternal and divine, the genuineness of His humanity can never be denied.

The opening pages of the Bible also do much to explain the history of the world. All other creatures of God are now doing the same things they did in the beginning. They are grazing grass, climbing trees, digging holes, chasing prey, etc, and this is what they will always do. On the other hand, man is building computers that can do billions of computations in a second; sending vehicles deep into space; evaluating the galaxies and stars; discovering the structures of atoms, decoding genetics, etc. Man is not like other creatures. He is very special. He was created in the image of God.

His potential is therefore virtually unbounded, as was taught by Jesus Himself (Mt 17:20, Jn 14:12), but man's achievements are nothing in comparison to what they should have been. His potential will be more fully realized when he acknowledges his proper origin, place and destiny. He did not evolve from animals, but was created in God's image, and it is therefore incumbent upon him to occupy his station with the piety, civility and dignity that God could reasonably expect of one who has been honored this way. The crowning achievement of the race has been by Jesus Christ in the conquest of death, and this will be followed by the destruction of the mortal enemy that brought death upon mankind.

The fulfillment of the first prophecy is described in more detail in the last book of the Bible, but there the story takes an unexpected and intriguing twist. In the book of Revelation, John described the world's final great kingdom as a seven-headed, ten-horned beast. These heads and horns were explained as being many countries and leaders who will consolidate in the last days to execute Satan's wicked purposes. He said one of these heads will have received a mortal wound will but somehow manage to survive. He further

said this seemingly-resurrected head will serve to the amazement of almost the whole world but also to its deception (Rev 13 & 17).

While there is obviously much here to tell, suffice it for now to say that the final world kingdom will seem to have been dealt a mortal blow in its early stages (perhaps described in Ezek 38 & 39), but will emerge from this into a seemingly indestructible confederation. All this shows that Satan is a formidable enemy, and that Christians should never assume he has been defeated. At the same time, it shows that Christians should never themselves submit in defeat but continue to press forward in the Cause of Christ. The reemergence of the wounded head may be one of the most discouraging developments in history for Christians who are not grounded in the Bible. It will then seem as if Satan has surely won and that there is no recourse to surrender, but all this will in fact denote his doom. The seven heads on the beast are nothing but a desperate attempt to avert the Bible's first prophecy. This will seem like too many heads to destroy, but all will be to no avail because of another prophecy in the center of the book:

*The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. – Ps 110:5-6*

These verses come from one of the most famous of the Psalms, written around 1000 years before Jesus Christ. Every verse of the psalm is a prophecy of Him. The above verse is a description of His second coming, wherein He will fully and finally bring to pass the prophecy of the wounded head.