

1) **Crushing Satan** (Gen 3:15)

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

God told Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17), yet instead of listening to God's good words, Adam listens to his wife, who listened to the serpent's doubt and denial of God's words. Instead of obtaining the godlike wisdom and blessing they reached out to take, rather than receive at the hands of God, Adam plunged the human race and all of creation into rebellion, futility and bondage to corruption (Rom 8:20-22), with the penalty being death. This terrible event is known as "The Fall". In the Fall we see humankind rejecting God's rule, dethroning God and trying to put themselves on the throne over all creation. It is the Sin that leads to all other sins. And yet while Adam and by extension all of humanity is totally responsible as offenders, Adam and humanity are also victims.

Genesis 3 opens with the introduction of the crafty serpent. He sows doubt into Eve's mind "Did God actually say", denies God's warning "You will not surely die" and therefore provokes disobedience "she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." As the Bible's story unfolds we learn the serpent is actually the Devil/Satan, who with his minions is set against God and seeks to assault humanity and bring about destruction through temptation, lies, accusation, deceit, doubt, filling hearts with lies and murder. C.S. Lewis tried to capture the extent of the Devil's methods in his fictitious "The Screwtape letters".

While believers need to take the Devil seriously and be prepared (Eph 6:11; Pet 5:8) we don't have to fear him. Why? Because of the promise of Gen 3:15. Despite their blatant rebellion, God graciously promises Adam and Eve that one day one of their offspring would "bruise" the head of the serpent/Devil. What does this mean exactly and who is this offspring? The answer is in: **1 Jn 3:8**:

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus fulfills God's promise in the Garden at the cross where he triumphantly once and for all disarmed and put to shame the devil and all those opposed to God (Col 2:15). During Advent we remember Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and when he returns a second time he will be finally dealt with.

To ponder:

How does this promise drive out our fear of the Devil?

To Pray:

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are the God who kept his promise through the coming of Jesus to destroy the Devil. As we wait for your Son's return enable us to be prepared and stand firm against the Devil, knowing the victory is already won. Continue to open our ears, eyes and heart to see, know, love and share you as the great Promise Maker and Promise Fulfiller in Christ. Amen