The Gospel of Jesus Chrsit (8)

The Promised Gospel (7)

Old Testament Prophecies of Resurrection

The Protoevangelium (Genesis 3:15)

1. Background & Spiritual Reality

- The Fall in Eden: God allowed Adam to eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Tempted by the serpent, Eve and Adam disobeyed God.
- The Cosmic Consequence: Sin entered the world through one man, resulting in spiritual separation from God and eternal death for all humanity (Romans 5:12).
- The First Proclamation: Immediately after sin entered, God announced His redemption plan while rebuking the serpent in Genesis 3:15—the Protoevangelium.

2. "Her Offspring"

- Genealogies throughout history and Scripture are almost exclusively traced through paternal lines.
- Referring strictly to "her offspring" is only meaningful if a child is conceived without male seed.
- Theological Meaning: A direct prophetic allusion to the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ through Mary.

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3. Striking the Heel vs. Crushing the Head

- The heel contains a thick fat pad and tough skin; a heel injury is painful but not fatal.
- Meaning: Satan constantly attacked Jesus during His earthly ministry, culminating at the cross. Though Jesus suffered unimaginable agony and physical death, God raised Him on the third day. Thus, the cross was merely a "struck heel"—painful, but non-fatal and temporary.

The Offspring Crushing Satan's Head (The Resurrection)

- The head houses vital organs and is extremely vulnerable; a severe blow to the head causes fatal, unrecoverable damage.
- Meaning: Satan thought the cross was his ultimate victory. However, by rising from the dead, Jesus shattered the power of death—Satan’s ultimate weapon. The resurrection was a decisive, fatal blow to Satan’s head.
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Why the Son of God Took On Human Flesh

- Divine Nature: As eternal Spirit equal with God, Jesus could not feel physical pain, shed blood, or die.
- Incarnation Purpose: He was "made lower than the angels for a little while" (took on human flesh) specifically so He could suffer, shed blood, and pay the full debt of our sin.

The Meaning of "Tasting Death"

- Human Reality: For mortal humans, physical death is an inescapable dead end and a point of no return.
- Christ's Victory: Jesus genuinely experienced real death, but because God raised Him, death could not hold Him. He merely "tasted" death and walked away victorious.

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Neutralizing Satan's Ultimate Weapon (Hebrews 2:14–15)

- Definition of Death: Not a natural state created by God, but a curse resulting from sin.
- Satan's Strategy: Satan deceives humanity into sin, pulling us away from God and using our fear of death as a weapon to enslave, manipulate, and control us.
- The Resurrection Effect: Jesus destroyed the devil's stronghold. His resurrection proved that physical death is not the final end, but a gateway to eternal life.
- Christian Assurance: Believers holding the hope of eternal life no longer live in fear or bondage to Satan. Death has lost its sting and victory (1 Corinthians 15:54–57).

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The Prophecy of Isaiah 53:10–11

- Isaiah 53 vividly depicts the Suffering Servant who bears our griefs, is pierced for our transgressions, and is buried in a rich man's tomb (v. 9).
- Verse 10–11 transitions directly from His burial to His glorious resurrection and aftermath.

Three Prophetic Promises Fulfilled

- "He will see His offspring"
- Through His sacrificial death and ransom, a vast family of spiritual children would be saved.
- "Prolong His days" & "See the light of life" (Resurrection):
- After being crushed as a sin offering, He would not remain in the grave. He would rise to see the light of life and live forever.

Historical & Ongoing Fulfillment

- Fulfilled when God raised Jesus from the dead, and through the witness of the apostles, millions across history have believed and become children of God.

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Core Takeaways

- **God's Sovereign Blueprint:** The resurrection was not an emergency backup plan; it was foretold from the very beginning of human history (Genesis 3:15) and detailed by the prophets (Isaiah 53).
- **The Table Turned:** What appeared to be Satan's greatest triumph at the cross backfired completely, resulting in the crushing of Satan's head through the empty tomb.
- **True Freedom Granted:** By trusting in Christ's resurrection, we are liberated from the enslaving fear of death, guilt of sin, and control of the enemy.

Reflection Questions

1. In Genesis 3:15, what is the unique significance of the phrase "the offspring of the woman"?
What do the expressions "he [Satan] will strike his heel" and "the offspring of the woman will crush his head" each mean?

2. The author of Hebrews states that Jesus shared in our flesh and blood to "taste death" on the cross. What does this mean? How did the resurrection of Jesus neutralize Satan and his ultimate weapon—death?

Reflection Questions

3. Satan seeks to make us his slaves through the fear of death.
What are the things you're afraid of these days? What kind of hope and assurance does the resurrection of Jesus give you in facing that fear?

4. How does Isaiah 53:10–11 prophesy the resurrection of Jesus, and how was this prophecy fulfilled?

Who around you needs to receive the resurrection life of Jesus Christ through you? What is one concrete action you can take this week to share the hope of the resurrection with them?

Memory Verses

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

"But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." (Hebrews 2:9)

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Hebrews 2:14–15)

'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'.. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:55–57)