



# Tower of Strength

**“The name of the Lord is a strong tower  
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”**

**—Proverbs 18:10**

## **A Study of the Messiah - The Seed of Woman -**

Those first beginning to study the Messianic promise are surprised to learn just how close to the front cover of the Bible that the promise is made.

In Genesis 1 and 2, God created the earth and created man and woman, and provided a perfect Paradise in which to live. God gave one specific instruction, in 2:16-17:

The Lord God commanded the man, saying,  
“From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

But of course, as any parent will tell you, declaring something out of bounds makes it an object of curious attraction. Despite all the millions of other trees God planted for Adam and Eve to tend and enjoy, Satan managed to tempt them with the one tree they couldn't have. Satan lied to the first couple, and tricked them into disobeying God. Sin entered the human condition.

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Their innocence was destroyed, and they cowered in fear. God confronted them, and pronounced a curse upon both the man and the woman, clothed them properly, and cast them out of the garden. As God had promised, they died immediately—in a spiritual sense, that is—for they were separated from God. Of course, they also began to die physically, and God made for them an eventual appointment with the dust. Thus, “through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

But in the same breath, God cursed the serpent, saying in 3:14–15,

Because you have done this,  
Cursed are you more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you will go,  
And dust you will eat all the days of your life;  
And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman  
And between your seed and her seed;  
He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel.

There is way more going on here than just some silly etiological story, like Native Americans might tell to explain how Snake lost his legs and began to slither on the ground, or why many women jump on the table when snakes slither through the room. Satan is “the serpent of old” (Rev. 12:9). He was already in rebellion against God, unsatisfied with his given sphere (Jude 6), and searching for ways to destroy God’s chief creation. Even from these opening verses of the Bible, Satan was a “liar and murderer” (John 8:44).

But Satan was not destined to prevail. For as soon as Satan introduced the problem, God unveiled the solution. Though no New Testament writer directly applies Genesis 3:15 to Jesus, it is often called the *protoevangelium*, the “first gospel.” It is an act of pure grace on God’s

part. He would have been completely justified in destroying His thankless and disobedient creation. Instead, God promised salvation.

The enmity between the woman and Satan would go on throughout their descendants, “between your seed and her seed.” Satan doesn’t have literal offspring. But throughout history, those faithful to God are at odds with those loyal to Satan. In the very next generation, it could be seen that Abel followed God, while Cain followed Satan. But finally, one of those descendants of woman—a specific “He”—would be the downfall of Satan. Here, like in another place, the passage refers to a singular descendant rather than as a collective noun (see Paul’s discussion in Galatians 3:16).

There are, if one thinks about it, many ways that God could have secured salvation for mankind. He could have sent a Savior in any number of forms. But the savior would not be an alien or robot who comes to earth with new knowledge. The savior would not be a spirit or a ghost. The savior would not be a medicinal plant waiting to be discovered, not a chemical antidote needing to be synthesized, not an equation needing to be figured out. The savior would not be a hidden artifact waiting to be unearthed. Salvation would come in the form of a real person, “the seed of woman,” who would be born a man.

This also shows that while mankind was at fault for his own condemnation, God still loves us, and allowed mankind to be part of the solution. It is fitting that, eventually, the salvation of man would come from the seed of woman.

### **What Will He Do?**

This descendant of woman was destined to be locked in mortal combat with the serpent. God reveals the winner. “He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

The action of stomping a snake with enough force to crush the head may inflict a bruise on the heel. The snake may even manage to sneak in a bite on the heel of his killer. But the serpent comes off much worse, with a deadly wound.

This came to pass, of course, when Jesus Christ suffered on the cross. Satan managed to inflict a painful wound. Jesus suffered the scourging, the mocking, the beating, and the nails of the cross. But the very same motion was bringing doom to Satan. As Hebrews 2:14–15 says,

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

To my mind, the crucifixion was the heel-bruise, and the resurrection was the head-crushing. Finally, with the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior, the dominion of Satan over man has been busted wide open, and his final end is very near.

There is no doubt—Jesus Christ and His brethren shall be the winner of this eternal conflict. Paul says in Colossians 3:13, “He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Engage in this spiritual battle on the winning side, taking up the full armor of God, girding your loins with truth, putting on the breastplate of righteousness, taking up the shield of faith, and wielding the sword of the Spirit, as well as praying at all times with alertness and perseverance, “for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:10–18).

If we do this, “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Rom. 16:20)!

—*John Guzzetta*

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### **Quote of the Week:**

“If I throw out a hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but aligning my will to the will of God.”

—*E. Stanley Jones*