

1

JESUS: HE DEFEATED THE DEVIL'S WORK



PROPHET/DATES: God, directly to Adam and Eve after the first sin. Date unknown.



PROPHECY MADE: God said to the snake, '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).



THEN AND THERE: The best news in history came right after the worst thing that ever happened. Evil entered the world for the first time when Adam and Eve ate the fruit that God told them not to eat, after Satan tempted them. God's promise to defeat Satan and evil came right after that.

Satan is symbolised by the snake, and all people are represented by 'the woman' (Eve). When it talks about the 'offspring' of 'the woman' it's mainly talking about all people, but especially Jesus – God himself – who was born of a woman and who, according to this prophecy, would one day crush Satan. It couldn't be talking about an ordinary person because Satan is stronger than all of us – he even convinced Adam and Eve that



God was holding back his best from them and they should disobey him. If he convinced them of a great nonsense like that, it's no surprise that we so often give in to the lies of temptation.

But God in his great mercy didn't wait around and leave Adam and Eve thinking that no good could ever come because of what they had done. Even though their sin brought the curses of death and pain into the world, God would one day provide someone who would completely defeat Satan. However, Satan would cause great pain to people and even to the promised 'offspring' – the 'great somebody' who would defeat Satan.



PROPHECY FULFILLED: '... the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work' (1 John 3:8).

See also: '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' (Hebrews 2:14).



SCARLET THREAD: We now know the name of that great promised 'somebody': Jesus. *He* was the only person ever born who could defeat Satan completely because although Jesus came to earth as a man, he is still also God.

Why do you think that Jesus came to earth? What was he hoping to do or to achieve? This verse tells us: 'to destroy the devil's work'. The devil's work is to get as many people to suffer as much as possible, and he does that mainly by trying to keep people away from God; away from forgiveness, away from knowing Jesus, away from having joy in their lives.

God promised through the prophets that he would send someone to take the punishment for our sins, because that is the only way we could be saved and be able to have a good relationship with God.



APPLICATION: Thank God that he kept his promise to send someone – born of a woman – who would 'crush Satan's head' to destroy his work. Thank God for Jesus.

Did you know that God is stronger than the devil? Jesus has already destroyed the devil's big plan to keep everyone away from God, and when Jesus comes again the devil won't be able to do *anything to anyone* any more.



PRAYER: God, thank you that through Jesus' perfect life, his death and being raised again to life, that the devil's work has been destroyed and anyone can have free forgiveness of their sins. Please help everyone to know that. Amen.