

Hope
Genesis 3.15
December 1, 2024

**“I’ll place hostility between you and the woman,
between your offspring and her offspring.
He’ll strike you on the head,
and you’ll strike him on the heel.”**

Mankind got off to a bad start early in its history:

- ***Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. Rm.5.12-14***
- ***“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Rm.3.12-14***

At the same time mankind judgment was pronounced on mankind, hope was also expressed! (Gen.3.15)

This hope was expressed on numerous occasions throughout history.

- ***...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice. Gen.22.18***
- ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon^l his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Is.9.6-9***
- ***But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Mt.1.20-23***

This hope was planned in eternity past:

- ***Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began... 2 Tim.1.8-9***

And spreads to eternity future:

- ***I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*** Jn.18.28
- ***And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*** 1 Jn.5.11-13

This hope will be the provision of God Himself:

- ***Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.*** Gen.22.8
- ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*** Jn.3.16-17

This hope is found and realized only in Jesus Christ:

- ***For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*** Mk.10.45
- ***Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father...*** Gal.1.3-4
- ***For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...*** 1 Pe.3.18

This hope leads us to an anticipation of spending eternity with our God:

- ***But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*** He.10.26-28
- ***Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*** 2 Cor.5.8
- ***Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*** 1 Thes.4.17

This great hope is clearly expressed in the Book of Revelation:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Rev.21.3-4

Communion

We now celebrate the assurance of our Hope!

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. He.10:11-14

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. He.12.1-2