



THE LOINS OF TRUTH

Issue No. 3

March 2019

THE WOMAN AND HER SEED *Reuben Warjri*

Genesis 3:14,15 *"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, ... I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

The above verse is the prophecy pronounced by God, after the fall of man, concerning the promised "seed" that was meant to defeat Satan. This is also the first incident in the Bible where we find a mention of the woman and her seed. Taking into consideration the context and the audience before whom God uttered these words, it would seem as though the "woman" specifically referred to Eve. But Eve did not give birth to the "seed" no matter how badly she and her husband would have wished it to be so, especially after witnessing how ugly sin could get. Some, however, opined that this woman was the virgin Mary. Well, no matter what or how others think or perceive this matter, I invite our readers to look into this issue from a much wider and deeper perspective.

To begin with, the words uttered by God had a metaphorical and an allegorical connotation. Though at first sight, God appears to be speaking to the serpent, but in actual fact He was addressing Satan himself. In fact, the Bible recognises Satan as "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan." (Revelation 12:9). Another metaphorical tune to this message can be seen in the words, "it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Bruising the head is another way of saying that the seed would inflict a crushing blow to Satan that would ultimately prove to be fatal. Bruising the heel, on the other hand, refers to a mere wound that can inflict severe pain, at best, but is not enough to defeat the foe. In a similar way, the words "woman" and "seed" in this prophecy also bear a deeper meaning behind them.

We shall first look at the meaning behind the "seed." Fast forward to the time of Abraham, we find yet another incident where God reaffirms the promise or the covenant He made in the garden of Eden with special reference to the "seed." However, this time around, He mentions that the "seed" would come from the loins of a man, not a woman, who in this case was Abraham.

Genesis 22:18 *"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

In looking at this prophecy once again, one may get the impression that the "seed" here refers to the descendants of Abraham, particularly the Jews. However, a closer inspection of the word of God reveals the true identity of the "seed."

Galatians 3:16 *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."*

Here, the apostle Paul alludes to the promise made unto Abraham which the Holy Spirit led the apostle to understand the true import behind the message of the "seed." Therefore, the "seed" in question is none other than Christ Himself.

We are now left with one more player in this great controversy, that is, the woman. By now it is clear that the woman does not necessarily refer to a literal woman, though the virgin Mary is a partial fulfilment of the prophecy. To understand this aspect, we should first know and understand that more details were subsequently added to the prophecy that was first made at the garden. Why did God choose to do this? I can think of at least three reasons why God did this. The first reason was that He wanted to keep reminding His people from time to time that He had not backed

**Christ In You Ministries,
Dongpyngrope, Nongrah,
Shillong – 793006**

The Loins of Truth is one of the ministry's endeavour to restore the truths that have been lost and trampled to the ground. We hope that by this avenue, we can motivate our readers to search for truth as for hidden treasures.

The Loins of Truth is published on a monthly basis and it is free of cost for anyone who desires to acquire it.

Contact no.
+91 87942 62391
+91 82588 77230
+91 94369 45866
+91 70056 73218

Email:
ciyministries04@gmail.com

Other articles in this issue:

1. **If Christ Be Lifted Up Pg. 3**

away from the promise, thereby keeping the hope of deliverance alive. Secondly, in order to remove all misconceptions, conspiracies and mistaken identities that could have surrounded the birth of Christ, God added these intricate, yet simple to understand details. But the third and final reason, which I consider as the most important of all the three, was that God wanted to reveal the true

identity of the “woman.” It is this aspect that I wish we pay a closer attention to.

The covenant that God made with Abraham, was also made with his son, Isaac (Genesis 17:21), and with his grandson, Jacob. We know from Scripture that Jacob had twelve sons whose posterity made up the twelve tribes of Israel. From among these tribes, God chose to fulfil this covenant through the tribe of Judah.

Isaiah 65:9 “And I will bring forth the seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.”

God further made it clear that the Messiah would descend from the line of kings, particularly that of king David. God chose to echo this truth in the ears of David himself which the latter expressed in one of his Psalms.

Psalms 89:3,4 “I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, thy seed will I establish for ever and build up thy throne to all generations.”

On the day of Pentecost, after the outpouring of the Spirit, Peter in his sermon confirms that the man, Jesus Christ, whom the Jews condemned to death was a descendant of the king of Israel.

Acts 2:29,30 “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.”

Therefore, as far as His human incarnation is concerned, Jesus descended from a certain ancestral line that traces its beginnings from Adam himself. Luke highlights this fact in Luke chapter three where he gives a detailed account of Christ’s genealogy. In so doing, he not only proved that Christ came in the form of a man but his main intention was

to drive home the fact that God had a group of people here on earth through whom He was able to use as a channel to usher the advent of the Messiah. This group of individuals is the “woman” that is spoken of in Genesis 3:15. However, I wish to make one thing clear that though the names mentioned in Luke were mostly men, the women, particularly the wives of these men, were also part of this group. The reason that Luke did not choose to mention all the women in the list was because the ancestral lineage, as ordained by God, was of a patrilineal nature. The other reasons would be in the interest of brevity and accuracy. I therefore believe that there were other people and individuals, men and women, who certainly fell within the purview of the “woman” but are not mentioned in Luke’s or even Matthew’s list. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives us a more complete list of the “woman.”

On close inspection of this group, we will notice that it exhibits a particular trait. These individuals stood out as the faithful ones of God in the midst of the prevailing infidelity that surrounded them. In other words, the “woman” is God’s church, a group of people who trusted God and who stuck with Him through thick and thin. I say this with the utmost confidence because a woman in Bible represents the church. We read about this in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians where he links the relationship that exists between the husband and the wife to the relationship between Christ and His church.

Ephesians 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

Another indication to support this view is found in the book of Revelation chapter 12 wherein we find the description of a woman clothed with the sun, wearing a crown of twelve stars on her head and the moon is under her feet. She is also pregnant with a child which she is ready to give birth to. Once again, the woman in this chapter of Revelation represents God’s church.

Revelation 12:1,2 “And there appeared a great wonder in

heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she being with a child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

The child that this woman is pregnant with is Jesus Christ because in verse five, it mentions that the child, after being born, is caught up to God and to His throne. It is in this chapter that we see a more comprehensive and a complete picture of what God’s church is supposed to be. Here, God’s church is presented as an incubator that brought forth this Child. The questions that now face us are: How many of the Christian denominations that are in existence today, existed at the time when Christ was born? Was even Christianity established when Christ was born? The answer to both these questions is, “NO.”

Again, the book of Revelation is mostly a book that presents the truth in symbols. So, the sun and moon have a meaning behind them. When God portrays the woman as being clothed with the sun, it means that it is clothed with the righteousness of Christ. A confirmation of this point is found in the book of Malachi where Christ is referred to as the “Sun of Righteousness.”

Malachi 4:2 “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth, and grow as the calves of the stall.”

This righteousness is sometimes depicted as a white robe. This is in agreement with the appeal that Christ makes to the Laodicean church that it should acquire from Him a white robe which can cover its nakedness. (Revelation 3:18). This covering, shields the shame or the nakedness that emanates as a result of the sins that the people commit. So, when a person stands before the judgement seat, he will not be found wanting because the righteous life of Christ makes him complete. That is why Paul says, “Ye are complete in [Christ].” (Colossians 2:10). However, this can only be possible if Christ is allowed to live in our hearts. In this way, our bodies can truly be

the temple of God. Again, as Paul puts it, and I love quoting this verse, "Christ in you the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27).

However, you may ask, "What about the people who died before Christ could even impart His righteous life to them?" Though this can be a lengthy topic to discuss, but for the sake of brevity I would simply say that it is not what they did but what Christ did for them that would save them. However, not all of the old testament folks will be granted eternal life because as I mentioned earlier, there was only a certain group of people who stuck with God primarily because of their faith in Him. So, faith and Christ together make the key. No wonder the Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. A not so well known yet prominent figure in the Bible that fits the description of this class of people is the thief on the cross. His faith in Christ was enough to earn him eternal life.

Going back to Revelation 12, just as the moon reflects the light that comes

from the sun, in a similar way, God's people naturally reflect the character of Christ because Christ literally lives in them. Hence the meaning of the moon that is under the woman's feet.

However, there is yet another meaning to the sun and the moon. After the fall, God's church was instructed to observe the rite of offering an unblemished lamb as an offering to God. This rite was intended to reflect the death of Christ as the "Lamb of God" on the cross. Those who, like Cain, did not see the significance of this system of worship decided to either invent their own way of accomplishing this task or to completely ignore to comply with the divine ordinance. The Jewish ceremonial observances along with the sanctuary and the services connected with it were also a type that pointed to Christ and His ministry as the Saviour of this world. Once Christ had offered up Himself as a sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world, the ceremonial law became null and void. God's church now moved from the reflected light (the moon) to the true light (the sun).

Therefore, Christ was the point of transition for God's church. This is reflected in the gospel of John when it says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17). So the woman or God's church moved from the type to the antitype.

As we can see, the church is simply a group of people in relation to their faithfulness to God who alone are worthy of the righteousness that comes through Christ. This church traces its origins from the garden of Eden. In light of these facts, no particular church organisation or denomination can rightfully claim that it is exclusively God's church. Even if they do so, there is no ample evidence in the Bible to support such an idea. But at the same time, it is also true that God uses the different churches and ministries to lead people to the ultimate truth.

IF CHRIST BE LIFTED UP

Reuben Warjri

John the Baptist was the man chosen by God to be the voice "crying in the wilderness." His message was heard reverberating through the Judean wilderness, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:2). Though these words were received with much enthusiasm and anticipation, the core of what that message was all about was missed out by many. People from all over Israel flocked to the banks of the river Jordan to listen with rapt attention to the message borne by this prophet of God. However, because the Jews were so overcharged with the burden of being under foreign rule, the message about the impending kingdom of heaven captured most of their attention so much so that when John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world," his words seemed to fall on deaf ears. Yet he remained ever steadfast to the mission that God had called him to accomplish. When enquired upon by the people if he was

the Messiah, his answer was, "I indeed baptise you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (Luke 3:16).

Here we see that John did not wish to bring honour to himself. He could have won the people to his side by declaring himself to be the Christ, but he unswervingly directed the attention of the people to Jesus as the true "Lamb of God." His disciples, on the other hand, did not share the same sentiments regarding the mission of the Baptist. They thought that they alone were exclusively the chosen ones of God to carry the gospel message to all the land of Judea. Therefore, they endeavoured to draw people to themselves. When the tide of popularity shifted to Christ and His disciples, the disciples of John became jealous of Christ and sought to put a stop to His ministry. Expecting John to share the same

feelings as they, they went to him with the hope that he too would side with them and give his approval on the matter. But John, not wishing to draw crowds to himself and in keeping with the mission he was called to accomplish, simply said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30).

A similar situation was manifested in Jesus' inner group of disciples. The misguided notion that the kingdom of God was a physical one with Christ as the king who would sit on its throne, pervaded the entire Jewish nation including the disciples. Because of this, they too were contending among themselves as to who should be the greatest in that kingdom. They also perceived as a threat to their cherished ambition towards social greatness when an individual who was not part of their group, went around healing in the name of Jesus the people who were possessed by demons. As one who was not part of the group, the

disciples of Christ viewed this man as an outcast and that his activities were considered as dubious and questionable. So, by putting a stop to his work, they thought that they were doing great good to the cause of the gospel. However, their actions were not approved by Christ when the matter was brought out before Him.

Mark 9:38-40 “**And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.**”

Vital lessons can be drawn from the accounts of the disciples of Christ and the disciples of John the Baptist. Both these groups knew what privileges and benefits they enjoyed. But the problem was, they thought that these privileges were exclusively their property and no one had the right to the same privileges unless they were part of their group. As a result of the position they held as the ones who were chosen to impart the knowledge of the truth, they thought that the truth was exclusively confined within the boundaries of their own group. To them, it was impossible that others may have access to the truth and perhaps even have a better understanding of what truth really was. Hence, they could not come to terms with the fact that others may sometimes have something better to offer, in terms of spiritual matters. This led them to go to any length to halt or hinder the efforts of others who do not belong to their group.

Pride also played a major part in causing them to think that their efforts and their choices were solely responsible for the blessings that they now enjoyed. They forgot that it was the hand of God that pulled them out of the darkness into the light. They exalted themselves and they endeavoured to win people to their group and forgot that they were

called to win people to the truth and to Christ.

This pretty much reflects the attitude of modern day Christianity. There are many misguided Christians today who claim that their church is exclusively the church of God. It is no surprise, therefore, that they brand other groups and denominations as “false churches,” and anyone belonging to these groups are not considered to be divinely inspired and whatever they teach and practice is considered to be biblically unsound. And like John, they forbid others from carrying out the duty that God has ordained them to do. And like the disciples, the churches today seek to draw people to themselves and not to Christ.

Similarly, the Jews were so infused with the idea that they alone were the chosen nation of God that they looked down upon the Gentiles as one who were under a curse. If only they had studied the scriptures diligently, casting aside all the preconceived notions they had accumulated over the centuries and allowed themselves to be led by the Spirit of God, they would have not been so misguided in their estimation of themselves or of others. The words of the covenant that God made with Abraham should have been enough to dispel all the misconceptions they had concerning God’s plan in sending His Son.

Genesis 22:18 “**And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**”

Both Jews and Gentiles will be blessed in Christ. No one will be blessed just because they are a member of a particular group or church organisation. Therefore, it makes sense that salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Paul highlights this truth to the believers in Galatia.

Galatians 3:26-29 “**For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek,**

there is neither bond nor free, there is no male nor female: for ye are one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s then ye are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

Indeed, the church of God is composed of people who hail from all walks of life, irrespective of race, culture, language and the like. Jesus also said that He would bring other sheep that were not in His fold. This fold is His church.

John 10:16 “**And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**”

Jesus spoke these words to His followers who were in “His fold.” The reason that the “other sheep” were not included in this fold was because they had not yet known Him and they had not yet become His followers. Therefore, the key to be part of God’s church is to know Christ, believe in Him and surrender one’s life to him and follow Him. And how does He choose to accomplish this task? He has chosen men and women like you and I to accomplish this. Like John the Baptist, our sole mission is not to draw people to ourselves or to our group but it is to lift up Christ and draw others to Him. By so doing, we may direct the attention of the people to the lovely character of Christ and His saving grace. In relation to this, the words of Jesus Himself speak volumes of this fact when he says, “And I, if I be lifted up..., will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32). Though the primary application of this verse is connected to His crucifixion, however it is also a spiritual truth that if we lift Him up, people will be drawn to Him. All self-exaltation will be lost in Christ and He would be the centre of our discourses. In light of this truth, it is certainly life eternal to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 17:3).

God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep his commandments.” – Ellen Gould White, *The Upward Look*, pg. 315.7

“It is an abuse of God’s word that any denomination takes it upon itself to declare itself to be the fold; to be exclusively, God’s church. Of necessity, such a denomination must establish membership criteria which require more of their members than simply loyalty to Jesus Christ.” – David Clayton, “What is a Church,” *With Open Face*, Issue No. 10, June 1999.