

The First Punishment and the First Promise

Genesis 3: 14, 15

Objective: The students will see the first prophecy of the coming of Christ.

Introduction:

We have been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. We studied the perfect relationship that the man had with God. We studied how God made a woman for the man. (How?) We saw the perfect relationship that the man and the woman had. (Can you tell me about their relationship at first? They were naked and not ashamed.)

But then along came a snake. The snake tricked the woman, and the woman sinned, and the man sinned. Then they felt some new, and terrible, emotions. What did they feel? (shame, fear and guilt)

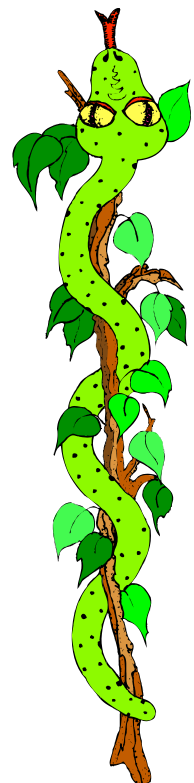
Last week we saw their guilt. We saw the man blame the woman. We saw the woman blame the snake. Today, God will tell them what the punishment is. He will start with the snake.

Questions:

- What is the snake's punishment?
- What will one of the woman's descendants do?

Read Genesis 3: 14, 15

Answer the questions



Possible threads to follow:

1. See how God said that He would make the woman and the snake become enemies. Interesting how most woman hate snakes!
2. Compare 'crush your head' with 'bite his heel.' (a death blow vs. a sting) This is talking about Jesus and Satan. Jesus is the descendant of the woman. Jesus will kill Satan. Satan will sting Jesus. When did Satan "bite his heel"? On the cross. The cross was a terrible, terrible pain. So the snake, or Satan, is really very, very powerful and a very dangerous enemy.
3. Maybe the snake had legs. It would not be a punishment to crawl on his stomach if that was the way God had originally created him. (The Japanese have a saying about the snake's legs, meaning something useless)
4. You may need to assure students that Satan is not in every snake! But people find snakes creepy because God has made them our enemies.
5. Even in His heartbreak over the first sin, in His anger over the first sin, God is thinking of sending Jesus. He gives the wonderful promise of the final defeat of Satan.