

“The Curse & The Promise”

Sermon Notes

- **You’re living in a real-life fairy tale—there’s a dangerous dragon and a damsel in distress—but take heart, God’s plan of deliverance has never changed—the gospel of His death-defying hero**

** God is weaving something better than a myth or a legend, he’s spinning a real-life tale of deliverance...*

1. The curse remains unbroken: The serpent and all his brood are condemned (14)

2. The promise remains unbroken: Christ is slaying the dragon and winning the girl (15)

Next Week: Genesis 3:16 - “The Marring of Marriage”

MEFC Study Guide

For the week of October 26th - November 1st

Getting Started

1. What dragon tales and stories are you familiar with? What is it about dragon stories—the dragon, the damsel in distress, the hero—that make them so popular and fascinating to us as readers or listeners?

Observation— let's make note of the key ideas

2. Consider the importance of the following words and ideas. What do they contribute to the scene?

a. Serpent

- In *The Serpent and the Serpent-Slayer*, Andy Naselli asserts that “*Serpent* is an umbrella term that includes both snakes and dragons. It’s the big category. ...A serpent has two major strategies: *deceive* and *devour*. As a general rule, the form a serpent takes depends on its strategy. When a serpent in Scripture attempts to deceive, it’s a snake. When a serpent attempts to devour, it’s a dragon. Snakes deceive; dragons devour. Snakes tempt and lie; dragons attack and murder. Snakes backstab; dragons assault.” How do these distinctions help you understand the unfolding story of the serpent?

b. Curse

- Cursing comes up many times in Genesis. Consider the following examples: Genesis 4:11-12; 9:25-26; 12:3; 27:26-29. How do these passages help you understand what’s happening here in Genesis 3?

c. The punishment: “on your belly” and “dust you shall eat”

- What was God doing to his enemy? Consider passages like Psalm 72:9; Isaiah 38:23; 65:25; and Micah 7:16-17.

d. Enmity

- What is the unfolding biblical history of enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between their offspring? Consider passages like Exodus 1-15 or Revelation 12.

e. Seed/offspring

- How does this theme carry through the rest of Genesis (e.g. Cain vs. Abel, Seth; Noah; patriarchs)? Ultimately, who is the promised “seed” or “offspring”?

f. The Promise: he shall bruise your head, you shall bruise his heel

- Why is this often referred to as the *protoevangelion*, or the “first gospel”?

Meaning — let’s make sense of the ideas

3. What does the passage reveal about who God is and what he does in the world?
4. What does this passage reveal about who God’s people are?
5. How does this passage bridge to Jesus and the gospel?
6. What is the main point or theme of Genesis 3:14-15? Summarize the meaning in one sentence:

Application — let’s connect God’s ancient word to our modern walk with God

7. Head: How does this passage challenge (or confirm) what I believe about God’s character, saving work and promises; about spiritual enemies; and about my need for deliverance and rescue?
8. Heart: In the great spiritual war of the ages, is there some attitude in my heart that needs to change in order to take heart?
9. Hands: How does this passage exhort me to change the way I live, especially in relationship to God? How do I live in relationship to God’s enemies? How does this passage motivate me to evangelize?