

## WE WILL CONSIDER

- After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that the woman would have a special descendant who would destroy sin.
- That descendant is Jesus Christ.
- He is a descendant of Adam and Eve, like us; he was tempted in all the same ways as us; but he overcame sin throughout his whole life and destroyed it in his death.
- Jesus Christ is the Promised Saviour.

# The **B**iBLE EXHIBITION

## THE TRUTH ABOUT

# *The Saviour Promised in Eden*

## *The First Sin and a Promise of Hope*

In the beginning, God gave Adam and Eve a law and told them that if they disobeyed the law they would die (Genesis 2:16-17). A snake with the power of speech told a lie which tempted Eve to disobey God's law. She listened to the snake rather than God, and she and Adam chose to sin (Genesis 3:1-6).

True to His word, God sentenced Adam and Eve to death (Genesis 3:19). But as well as the sentence of death, there was a promise of hope for Adam and Eve: "The LORD God said to the serpent...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:14-15).

"Enmity" means "hatred". God promised that the snake and woman would hate each other and that their offspring (descendants) would hate each other too. The woman would have one special descendant who would crush the snake's head while the snake wounded his heel.

## *The Snake, The Woman and Their Descendants*

The snake told a lie to Eve (Genesis 3:4). From then on, the snake is used in a symbolic way in the Bible to describe sin. Its descendants are people who sin against God (eg Matthew 3:7).

The woman told the truth (Genesis 3:2-3). The woman is used in a symbolic way in the Bible to describe God's people (Isaiah 62:5; Revelation 19:7). The special descendant who followed God's way perfectly in everything he did, and so overcame the power of sin, is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:22).

## *Hatred*

God said that He would put hatred between the snake and the woman and between their descendants. This has happened in a natural sense – snakes and humans are natural enemies.

In a symbolic way, God put hatred between the lying thinking of the serpent and the truthful thinking of the woman. This was the start of the struggle between right and wrong that goes on inside all of us, and between people who follow God and people who do not.

The children of Adam and Eve give us an example of the hatred. Abel righteously made a good offering to God and Cain did not; Cain hated Abel for it and killed him (Genesis 4:3-8; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12).

## *Salvation from Sin*

The most important part of Genesis 3:15 is the struggle between the snake and the woman's special descendant. This struggle ends with the woman's special descendant wounded, bruised in the heel, but the snake bruised in the head and destroyed.

The special descendant is Jesus Christ, who was the son of a woman but not the son of a man. He was the son of Mary, but the son of God: 'When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman' (Galatians 4:4).

Every man or woman is a descendant of Eve (Genesis 3:20). The temptation to sin we all struggle with comes from within, out of our heart – it is part of being human (James 1:14; Mark 7:15,20-23; Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus Christ is a descendant of the woman too; through his whole life he too struggled with the temptation to sin – but he never gave in to the temptation. He ‘in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.’ (Hebrews 4:15).

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed: “If it be possible, let this cup pass from me”, but then crushed this thought: “Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” (Matthew 26:39) In his death on the cross he suffered a bruise from the power of sin (Romans 6:10), but at the same time he symbolically crushed the snake’s head, destroying the power of sin and death for himself and for every disciple who lives in him (Romans 6:8-14). ‘Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death’ (Hebrews 2:14).

### *More information*

For more information, please don’t hesitate to contact:

## THE TRUTH ABOUT SUMMARY

# *the Saviour Promised in Eden*

God made a special promise in Eden.

The snake is a Bible symbol for sin. Its children are people who sin against God.

The woman is a Bible symbol for God’s people.

Jesus Christ is the promised special descendant of the woman who won a great victory over sin.

*The* **BIBLE**  
EXHIBITION