


The First Christmas Prophecy

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?

Observation—*What do I see?*

- Read Genesis 3:8-15, and then review the "three enmities" which resulted (see [Sermon Summary](#)).
What are the identities of the opposing parties in each of those three enmities?

How is Enmity #1 actually an act of God's kindness toward, and protection of, humanity?

What evidences have you personally observed which support the teaching about Enmity #2?

Typically the **guilty** party must make amends for wrong-doing, but who resolves mankind's problem?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- Review the 25 prophecies Pastor Doug shared about the identity of Eve's special seed (Enmity #3).
We know that Jesus **did** fulfill them, but what do you think are the chances that others might have also?

Jesus' death and resurrection occurred 2,000 years ago—is Satan's head **now actually** crushed?

Which of those 25 prophecies are most powerful to you—**and why**?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- Tell us about someone in your sphere of influence who does not yet follow Christ.
- Of the 25 prophecies which identify Eve's "special seed"—the Messiah—**which ones** do you think your friend would find **most convincing**? **Why** those ones?
- Has that friend ever joined you for a church service? If so, how did he respond?
If not, would you be willing to share the link to this sermon with him? How should you do it?

Sermon Summary Genesis 3:8-15

Today we will travel back in time to the Garden of Eden. At that point in human history there was no sin, guilt or shame. Adam and Eve had unbroken communion with their Creator and with each other. But then Adam and Eve sinned against the God who created them, and that changed everything. You probably know the story. After being tempted by the serpent, they ate from the forbidden tree. As a result, for the first time in their lives, they experienced guilt and an overwhelming desire to cover it up. We see the consequences of Genesis 3:8-15. Picture the scene: Adam and Eve tried to hide from a God who sees all. Hiding from God is not a very effective strategy, yet we persist in trying to do so. Eve ate first, but interestingly enough, God called Adam to account first. I believe he did that because the man is God's appointed leader in the home. He was the one whom God held ultimately responsible for what went on in his family. Men, remember this: one day we too will have to give account for the spiritual leadership of our homes. When God asked, "Adam, where are you," it wasn't because he didn't know! God wanted to give Adam the opportunity to take responsibility. But no confession was forthcoming. Instead, blame-shifting began (8-12): "...that woman you gave me...". Then Eve blamed the serpent (13)—who didn't have a leg to stand on! God told Adam and Eve that they would reap what they had sown (16-19), but even in this solemn pronouncement of judgement there is a shrouded whisper of the grace of Christmas.

In Genesis 3:15 God speaks of three enmities or conflicts through which he will defeat his ancient enemy. These enmities began with Adam and Eve's current situation and stretch out into the distant future. They stretch across the course of human history and outline the stages through which God would defeat Satan.

Enmity #1 was between Satan and Eve (15a). Eve no longer would be Satan's willing accomplice. In the moment of temptation, Eve regarded the serpent as a morally neutral creature. She had no reason to be suspicious of him. But now she knows better. She knows he is a deceiver and a liar and that he is not on her side. From that point on she would cooperate with God in opposing Satan's agenda.

Enmity # 2 is between Satan's "seed" and Eve's "seed" (15b). As history unfolded, there is an ongoing struggle between those who align themselves with Satan and his kingdom program, and those who align themselves with God and his kingdom program. All humanity is in one of two great communities: those who follow Satan in rebellion and unbelief, and those who seek to walk in faith and obedience to God. There's no middle ground. The critical question is: "On whose side are you?"

Enmity # 3 is the climax: a future male descendent of Eve would face off with Satan himself (15c)! This male descendent of Eve will inflict a victorious mortal wound on Satan, while in comparison, Satan's strike on him will be like a bruise to his heel. This is the first prophecy of the coming Messiah. The Old Testament gave many prophecies to help us identify him, and the New Testament reveals their fulfillment. Here are a few:

1. He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3 & 22:17,18 cf. Matthew 1:1 and Galatians 3:16).
2. Through this seed, all the nations of the world will be blessed (Genesis 22:18 cf. Galatians 3:8-9).
3. He would come from the Jewish tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10 cf. Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14).
4. He would be of the house of King David (2 Samuel 7:12; cf. Matthew 1:1).
5. He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; cf. Matthew 1:21 ff).
6. His birthplace would be Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; cf. Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7).
7. He will be both human and divine (Isaiah 9:6 cf. Matthew 1:23).
8. He will be anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; cf. Matthew 3:16-17).
9. He would be heralded by a messenger of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; cf. Matthew 3:1-2).
10. He would have a ministry of miracles (Isaiah 35:5,6; cf. Matthew 9:35).
11. He would cleanse the temple (Malachi 3:1; cf. Matthew 21:12).
12. He would be rejected by his own Jewish people (Psalm 118:22; cf. 1 Peter 2:7).
13. He would die a humiliating death (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53; cf. Matthew 27).

14. He would stand silent before his accusers (Isaiah 53:7; cf. Matthew 27:12-19).
15. He would be mocked by his enemies (Psalm 22:7, 8; cf. Matthew 27:31).
16. His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16 cf. Luke 23:33).
17. He would be crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; cf. Matthew 17:38).
18. He would pray for his persecutors (Isaiah 52:12; cf. Luke 23:34).
19. He would be pierced in his side (Zechariah 12:10; cf. John 19:34).
20. He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; cf. Matthew 27:57-60).
21. People would cast lots for his clothing (Psalm 22:18; cf. John 19:23-24).
22. He would rise from the dead (Psalm 2:7; 16:10; cf. Acts 2:31 and Mark 16:6).
23. He would ascend into heaven (Psalm 68:18; cf. Acts 1:9 ff).
24. He will sit at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; cf. Hebrews 1:3).
25. He will return again for those who embrace him as Savior and Lord (Acts 1:9-11).

Church, what was obscure in Genesis becomes clear as history unfolded! And, the connection to Christmas? Were it not for our sin, Christmas would have been unnecessary, because Jesus came to die for our sin. Jesus of Nazareth is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Hebrews puts it this way: "Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the devil, who holds the power of death, and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death" (2:14-15). Initially, Jesus' death looked like a great defeat, but it turned out to be the greatest of victories! Jesus is not dead. He is very much alive, and he offers eternal life to all who receive him by faith (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). It is the Christmas season and God offers you the greatest of all gifts, forgiveness of sin and eternal life! The gift is under the tree, all you have to do is unwrap it by placing your trust in Jesus as your sin bearer! And, those of you who have already received this gift—begin your Christmas celebration in prayer, thanking God for the priceless gift of his Son.

Beginning in January!

It's time for TCC's
"Winter Mini"!



apologetics • [uh-pol-uh-jet-iks] • **rational defense of Christianity**

Hasn't science disproved God? Isn't faith a leap in the dark?
How can we perceive truth? Can we be good without God?
A merciful God wouldn't allow suffering.
A loving God wouldn't send people to hell...

Who?

all TCC adults

What?

get equipped to defend your beliefs

Why?

because there **really are** convincing reasons for faith!

When?

Four weeks, beginning January 8th.
Wednesday nights (6³⁰-8⁰⁰pm) **or**
Thursday mornings (9³⁰-11⁰⁰am)
or anytime On-Demand!

Where?

TCC campus

How?

simply **scan here** for complete info



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

For several thousand years faithful believers have been awaiting God's solution for sin, the promised Messiah. Each day this week, choose one or more of the 25 prophecies found in the [Sermon Summary](#) and, using the "Five Question Bible Study" method below, enjoy the Bible's rich insights into God's redeeming love.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would *this text* answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]