Bible Study Worksheet

2. The ‘seed of Eve’ prophecy: The Messiah would be a descendant of Eve, the mother of humanity (Genesis 3:15)

“I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15, WEB)

Background

- The prophecy in Genesis 3:15, among other things, establishes that the promised Messiah would be Eve’s *offspring* or *seed,* depending on the English translation, meaning he would be a descendant of Eve.
- The underlying Hebrew word that is translated by the World English Bible as *offspring* is *zera*, which is the Hebrew word for *seed*.
- The Hebrew word *zera* refers to seeds that can be planted (Genesis 1:29); or to offspring, as in children or descendants (Genesis 22:18); or to followers, as in followers of Satan (Genesis 3:15’s *your offspring*) or to followers of God (Psalm 112:1-2).
- The Hebrew word *zera* is an important word that appears in several Old Testament Messianic prophecies, including Genesis 3:15, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14; 2 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 89:4,29,36; and Isaiah 53:10.
- Genesis 3:15 is the first of many *seed* prophecies, which foretold that various people in the Old Testament would be part of the bloodline that would lead to the Messiah, including Abraham (Genesis 22:18), his son Isaac (Genesis 26:5), his grandson Jacob (Genesis 28:14), and King David (2 Samuel 7:12). Each of these examples have the word *zera* within the underlying Hebrew text.

Examine, analyze and understand

Our starting point is that the ***He*** in Genesis 3:15 ultimately refers to the promised Messiah and that this prophecy is revealing that the Messiah would be a descendant of Eve -- that he would be the *seed* or *offspring* of Eve.

1. Genesis 3:15 is the first of many Messianic *seed* prophecies in the Old Testament that have the Hebrew word *zera* within the underlying Hebrew text, which is translated here as *offspring*, as in ***her offspring***. Who is the word ***her*** referring to?
2. Who is ***her offspring***?
3. The ***He*** can refer to ***her offspring*** in a general sense, but who does it point to in the ultimate and literal sense?
4. With Genesis 3:15, Eve is the first recipient of a Messianic *seed* prophecy. Read Genesis 22:18. Who is the second recipient of a Messianic *seed* prophecy? How is this prophecy like the one in Genesis 3:15?
5. Read Genesis 26:4, which is the Old Testament's third Messianic *seed* prophecy. Who is the recipient? How is this prophecy like the earlier *seed* promises?
6. Read Genesis 28:14, which is the fourth *seed* prophecy. Who is the recipient? How is this prophecy like the earlier examples?
7. Read 2 Samuel 7:12, which is the fifth *seed* prophecy. Who is being addressed in the broader prophecy of 2 Samuel 7:12-16? How is the promise in this prophecy like the earlier prophecies?
8. The *seed* prophecies in the Old Testament address people in many different generations. What can we learn from this? What does this express about God's plan of salvation?
9. Moses recorded Genesis 3:15 when he wrote the book of Genesis about 3,400 years ago. But when was this prophecy given? And what does the timing say about God's plan of salvation?
10. **Bonus Round**: Genesis 3:15 shares connections with many other Messianic prophecies. How might we use this information to educate someone who does not view Genesis 3:15 as being a Messianic prophecy?

This Bible Study is based on Ray Konig's "301 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus". The book is optional but helpful. Free resources, including a summary of all 301 prophecies, are available at zealization.com/301.html