Bible Study Worksheet

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 context for understanding Genesis 3:15 can be found in the verses leading up to it, especially Genesis 2:17 and Genesis 3:1-21.
- Genesis 3:15 is the first prophecy to allude to the promised Messiah and his role in resolving the problem of sin, by suffering for the benefit of others. The key points of Genesis 3:15 are revisited and expanded upon in other Old Testament prophecies, especially Isaiah 53 (Isaiah 52:13-53:12).
- The underlying Hebrew word that is translated here as *offspring*, as in *her offspring*, is *zera*, which is the Hebrew word for *seed*. This Hebrew word can refer to seeds that can be planted (Genesis 1:29); offspring, as in children and descendants (Genesis 22:18); and followers (Psalm 112:1-2).
- In Genesis 3:15, the reference to *your offspring* points to the followers of the serpent (Satan), and the reference to *her offspring* points to humanity.
- The Hebrew word *zera* often appears in Old Testament prophecies about the promised Messiah, 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 *descendancy* prophecies, which foretold that various people in the Old Testament would be part of the bloodline that would lead to the Messiah. Other examples include 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.
- Relevant New Testament passages: Hebrews 2:14-17; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 5:12-19, 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:1-17, 20:1-3, 7-10.

Examine, analyze and understand

1. Adam and Eve are introduced and explained in Genesis 2-3. Who and what are Adam and Eve?
2. What did Adam and Eve do that prompted God to speak the words of Genesis 3:15?
3. If we accept that the *He* in the middle of Genesis 3:15 is ultimately an allusion to, and a prophecy of, the promised Messiah, why would God send a descendant of Eve to deal with the serpent (Satan) and to deal with the problem of sin?
4. What does being a descendant of Eve tell us about the promised Messiah and his relationship to us?
5. How does Genesis 3:15 serve as a starting point for understanding other Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament?
6. 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 a Messianic prophecy?
7. Genesis 3:15 is the first of many *seed* and *descendancy* prophecies. These prophecies involve many generations of people, including Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. What can learn from this? What does this express about God's plan of salvation?
8. 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?
9. **Bonus Round**: What happens to the *He* (the promised Messiah) in Genesis 3:15 when he confronts the serpent (Satan)? Given the details provided in Genesis 2:17, does the Messiah die?

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.