

The True War on Christmas

Discussion Questions for Genesis 3:15

1. Many historic commentators have seen Genesis 3:15 as merely describing the natural hostility that exists between men and snakes. For example, John Calvin interpreted this passage by saying, "I interpret this simply to mean that there should always be the hostile strife between the human race and serpents, which is now apparent; for, by a secret feeling of nature, man abhors them." What evidence do you see in this passage and in its context that would lead you to believe that it is referring to more than just man vs. snakes?
2. The Early Church Fathers began to teach the allegorical nature of this passage as early as Irenaeus of Lyons, who around 180 AD wrote concerning the enmity between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed, "And the Lord summed up in Himself this enmity, when He was made man from a woman, and trod upon his [the serpent's] head." Of what value is it to Christians today to inform ourselves of the interpretations of scripture from our historical forefathers?
3. What more do we find out later about this coming seed from God's unfolding drama of redemption in Scripture? Gen 12:1-3, Gen 49:10, Judah's son Perez in Ruth 4:16-22. Matt 1:1, and 21, 1 Pet 3:18, 2 Cor 5:21, Rev 5:1-14, and 22:16-17
4. Paul, in a passage strongly reminiscent of Gen. 3, encouraged the believers in Rome, "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20). In what way do believers today participate in the crushing of Satan?
5. The motif of the offspring of the woman is picked up in Gen. 4:25 with the birth of Seth; subsequently, the rest of Genesis traces a single line of Seth's descendants, observing that it will eventually produce a king (Genesis 49:10) through whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed. What exactly does Genesis 49:10 say about this promised king?