

I. Genesis 3:14-15: The Birth of Enmity

How it all began ...

- I. God's Humanity
 - A. Created Good
 - B. Created Free
- II. Adam's Rebellion
 - A. An Instigator
 - B. Eve
 - C. Adam
- III. War with God
 - A. Our Disposition
 - B. Our Enemies
 - C. Our Enmity
- IV. Grace & Peace
 - A. Grace for Adam + Eve
 - B. Mercy for Rebels
- V. In Jesus Christ
 - A. Son of God – Son of Eve
 - B. The Second Adam
 - C. Prepared to do Battle

... and where it's all going.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who were the first people, the very first parents?
2. God created them good, but what happened?
3. How did God show them kindness right away?
4. What does God tell the serpent will happen to him?
5. Who would come in time and do that to the devil?

This is War

“This is war” may not be the merriest way to begin an Advent series, but it is fitting. The celebration of Christ's coming is based on the narrative that mankind, due to sin, is at war with God. Because of our involvement in the sin of our first parents we find ourselves on the wrong side of a battle, opposed to God by nature and captive to the commander of the kingdom of darkness. We are complicit, captive, but also culpable. It is true that on the wrong side we face our own great enemies, the devil, sin and death. But the worst of it is the fact that we are at war with God. It is in the very first chapters of the Bible that we find not only the reason behind our rebellion, but we also find the solution to our biggest problem. God makes a promise in Genesis 3:15 that brings us great comfort. One will come that will do battle with the serpent. This verse is often called the *protoevangelium* or the first declaration of the good news, the Gospel. Fast forward in your Bible to John 3:16 and you will easily make the connection to Jesus. Out of His great love for us God sent His Son to save us. It would be a battle for sure, His heel would be bruised, but He has the victory, not only over Satan, but sin and even death itself! In His mercy God has provided a way for us to be reconciled to Him through Christ the King, and He subdues us to Himself by grace. It is ours to surrender, to give up our fool-hearted and wicked rebellion. The need for Christmas had everything to do with war ... the joy of Christmas for believers has everything to do with peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

*God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was borne on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we had gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

18th C. English Carol