

### **Develop Compassion for Humanity (Gen. 3:15)**

In Genesis 3, God's creation is invaded by sin. A serpent creeps throughout the Garden, and deceives Eve and Adam. Even though they were deceived, God still held them responsible, because they made a choice not to obey Him. The man and woman that God created and loved repaid Him by disobeying and infecting His creation. Thankfully, "God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish." God punished Adam and Eve for their flagrant disobedience, but did not leave them without hope. In Gen. 3:15 God promises Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." What a great hope that God gives Adam and Eve.

Their interpretation of the promise may have been without understanding what God meant. Their firstborn was named *Cain*, meaning *here he is*. A literal translation of Genesis 4:1 would read, "And the man knew Eve his wife, she conceived and bare Cain and said, 'I have gotten a man: Yahweh.'" Her basic theology is correct that the Savior would be a God-Man, but her timing is off. God chose the exact time and place for the Messiah to come into the world. Why? Because God loves His favorite creation: humanity. God wants to bring the world back into a relationship to Himself. He went to the ultimate extreme to get it: God became a man and paid the price for our sin.

An article in a National Geographic magazine provides a penetrating picture of God's love for us. After a forest fire raged through a section of Yellowstone Park, one of the rangers found the charred body of a bird at the base of a smoking tree stump. When he knocked it with a stick, three tiny little birds scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The remains of a half burnt nest nearby told the rest of the story. When the raging flames spread up the tree, the half burnt nest fell to the ground and the mother lit near it so her young birds could find protection under her wings. As the flames flared around her, she gave her life that her babies might live. In the same way, Jesus gave His life that we might live spend eternity in a relationship with God.

Because humanity is such a great passion of God, he gave us a command in Mt. 28:19, "Therefore go into all the world, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." It is the believer's responsibility to share the message with the unsaved. God says in Ezk. 3:18 that if we do not warn or dissuade "a wicked man from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood." God is very serious about His people making evangelism a priority and serving people. As believers, God's passion should be our passion. If we do not have the same passion as God, we should develop it, or question whether or not we understand God.