

tomb, a bruise in the heel, as the prophet Isaiah had foretold, 'He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities'. **(Isa. 53:5)** The first stage of God's plan of redemption was thus completed. But Christ was only the first fruits. There is to be the harvest in two further stages, which will accomplish the abolition of sin and death completely.

The second stage will be completed when Christ returns to reward his friends - who will be those who have done whatsoever he has commanded them. These he will raise from the dead, and will bestow on them eternal life, to be enjoyed on the earth, as rulers with Christ over those nations who submit to him at his coming - this stage lasting a thousand years. **(Rev. 20:6)**

The third and final stage will be at the end of the thousand years, when there will be a final judgement and sin and death will be completely destroyed. 'Christ must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death'. **(1 Cor. 15:25,26)**

As unbelief brought death, so belief in the Gospel, obedience in baptism, and continuance in well doing can bring everlasting life.

## The Christadelphians

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Please be assured that anything connected with the Christadelphians is entirely free, and based wholly upon Christ's precept, "freely ye received, freely give". Christadelphians, or as the name implies, brethren in Christ, are a body of people (established initially in the mid-nineteenth century) bound together by a wholehearted belief in the Bible. We do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Bible itself is able to make one "wise unto salvation" **(2 Tim. 3:15-17)**. Believing in the Divine Authorship of the Bible, we do not accept any interpretation which does not harmonise with its teaching as a whole. Finding that the creeds and practices of those who claim to be Christian are in many ways opposed to this teaching, we feel compelled to stand apart from them. We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to establish his throne and reign thereon, and we seek to share this knowledge with others. However we guarantee that we will not pressurise you in any way, if at any time you wish to discontinue contact.

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# God's promise In Eden

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## God's promise In Eden

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When God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden He declared them to be very good, but in order that they might give Him the pleasure for which they had been created, He desired that they should show faith in Him'. **(Heb. 11:6)** For this purpose they were given a simple law to keep. They were allowed to eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they were not to eat, and were told that in the day that they ate of it they would 'surely die'. **(Gen. 2:16,17)**

The testing time came when the serpent, one of the beasts of the field which the Lord had made, but more subtle than the rest - and possessed with the power of speech and a limited ability to reason - suggested that the forbidden tree was good for food and would add to their knowledge. In addition, the serpent said, 'Ye shall not surely die', thus contradicting God's word.

Eve listened to the serpent rather than to God, and with Adam took of the forbidden fruit; with the result that the condemnation which God had threatened, came upon them. The punishment for their disobedience was death, for God said, 'in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return'. **(Gen. 3:19)**

Although sin had brought death into the world, God's plan in creating the earth for man's habitation was not abandoned, for later He declared to Moses, 'As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. **(Num. 14:21)**

This determination to proceed with the purpose for which He had created the earth and man, is indicated in the words addressed to the serpent: 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and hers; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel'. **(Gen. 3:15)**

The serpent, because of the part it had played in Adam and Eve's transgression of God's law, became the symbol for sin. Jesus used the same term for his enemies, addressing the Pharisees with the words, 'Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers'. **(Matt. 23:33)** The bruising in the head, a fatal wound to a serpent, promises the utter destruction of sin and death. The seed of the woman is the destroyer, and in carrying out this work receives a bruise in the heel, a wound from which there can be recovery.

A careful reading of the Bible will show that this parable of the seed of the woman speaks of the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; in which he gained the victory over sin and death and has paved the way to everlasting life for all who believe in him.

A clue to the identity of the seed of the woman is given in the words, 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel'. **(Isa. 7:14)**

This was quoted in the message of the angel to Joseph, telling him that his espoused wife Mary was to 'bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet', and then follows

the quotation from Isaiah chapter 7. The Apostle Paul comments, 'When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law'. **(Gal. 4:4)**

The expression 'made of a woman' needs to be emphasised, for man had not part in the begetting of Jesus. When Mary was told that she should bring forth a son, being a virgin she naturally asked, 'How shall this be, seeing I know not man'? The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God'. **(Luke 1:34,35)**

Jesus partook of human nature through his mother and so was the seed of the woman, but being Son of God by begetting through the power of God - the Holy Spirit, he was 'the man of God's right hand whom He made strong for Himself'. **(Psa. 80:17)** Although tempted in all points like his brethren he never gave way to temptation, for it is recorded of him that he 'did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth'. **(1 Peter 2:22)** He could, therefore, offer himself as a perfect sacrifice, a representative of the human race; which offering God was pleased to accept, and to raise him from the dead after three days. No more had death any power over him and he could say, 'I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore'. **(Rev. 1:18)**

By Jesus' triumph over sin and death, the serpent (sin) was bruised in the head, i.e. utterly destroyed, as far as Christ was concerned; in the process he received by his death on the cross, and his short stay in the▶▶