The Proto Evangel

**Genesis 3:15** - 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." NASB

**And between your seed and her seed;**

1) The woman obviously does not have a seed. Therefore this verse points us to a supernatural mystery that must somehow find its fulfillment in one of Eve’s progeny. That progeny is identified as a “he,” a single male. After knowing then the course of History, and the Messiah who came by Virgin Birth and dealt the bruise to the head of the serpent, it is rather clear this is a Messianic Prophecy.

2) I did not find a single commentator who did not believe this was a Messianic Prophecy announcing the Gospel by pointing to Christ and the Cross. Several also held this was a prophecy of Virgin Birth. I do tend to lean that way, however cannot be dogmatic about it, as the Scripture does not make this explicit.

**He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.**

1) The contrast between a “bruise on the head” of a serpent and the “bruise on the heel” of a man is clearly showing or representing a “death blow” verses a “minor wound.” It pictures a severe blow to the serpent’s head (the superior part) and minor blow to the heel (the inferior part) of the man.

2) The bruise on the head of the serpent is the Cross. It is the death blow to the serpent rendering him powerless. He will be destroyed at the Great White Throne judgement (Rev 20:10).

   John 12:31-33 – 31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out. 32"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."  33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. NASB

   1 John 3:8 - 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. NASB

   Col 2:15 - 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. NASB

   Hebrews 2:14-15 - 14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. NASB

3) The “bruise on the heel” of the “woman’s seed” is undoubtedly a reference to the crucifixion of Christ. It is a blow to the Christ, but not a death blow. Because death did not have power over Him. This He proved by the Resurrection.

4) This portrait of the “woman’s seed” is a specific announcement of the Cross picturing both the “death blow” to the serpent and the “heel bruise” of the “woman’s seed” on the Cross.

5) I believe what our brother was saying was that if you believe that the “woman’s seed” was Christ, than you must also believe that the serpent has power to “bruise the heel” of Christ and that this was problematic because Satan does not have power over Christ. However I do not see this as problematic because Satan is given power over Jesus, by
the Father’s plan (John 19:11), to bruise Him, even to have Him killed by the hands of godless men. Even the very deception of Judas was attributed to Satan (Luke 22:3-6), much less the evil works of the Jews, Romans, and Gentiles who killed Him unjustly.

Acts 2:22-24 - 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. NASB

Acts 4:27-28 - 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur. NASB

6) One view that I would like to comment on is that the entire Church is seen in this prophecy as triumphing over Satan. In this view the whole Church is seen as the “woman’s seed”, being in Christ who is the head of the body, and the Church being the body thereof. This is because Eve is pictured as the “Mother of all the living”, which is the Church and that ultimately we will all triumph over Satan. Credence is also lent to this view by various Bible types and Scriptures such as ……

Romans 16:20 - 20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. NASB

Revelation 12:9-11 - 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 11 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death. NASB

Further, the “bruising of the heel” of the “woman’s seed” is seen in the many trials, temptations and persecutions of God’s Saints down throughout the ages.

Ge 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman; and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (KJV)

Ge3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (NKJV)

Xref - Ps 132:11; Isa 7:14; Mic 5:3; Mt 1:23,25; 3:7; 13:38; 23:33; Lu 1:31,34-35; Joh 8:44; Ac 13:10; Ro 16:20; Ga 4:4; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1Jo 3:8; 5:5; Re 12:7,17
Calvin - Genesis 3:15 - There is, indeed no ambiguity in the words here used by Moses; but I do not agree with others respecting their meaning; for other interpreters take the seed for Christ, without controversy; as if it were said, that some one would arise from the seed of the woman who should wound the serpent's head. Gladly would I give my suffrage in support of their opinion, but that I regard the word seed as too violently distorted by them; for who will concede that a collective noun is to be understood of one man only? Further, as the perpetuity of the contest is noted, so victory is promised to the human race through a continual succession of ages. I explain, therefore, the seed to mean the posterity of the woman generally. But since experience teaches that not all the sons of Adam by far, arise as conquerors of the devil, we must necessarily come to one head, that we may find to whom the victory belongs. So Paul, from the seed of Abraham, leads us to Christ; because many were degenerate sons, and a considerable part adulterous, through infidelity; whence it follows that the unity of the body flows from the head. Wherefore, the sense will be (in my judgment) that the human race, which Satan was endeavoring to oppress, would at length be victorious. In the meantime, we must keep in mind that method of conquering which the Scripture describes. Satan has, in all ages, led the sons of men "captive at his will", and, to this day, retains his lamentable triumph over them, and for that reason is called the prince of the world, (John 12:31.) But because one stronger than he has descended from heaven, who will subdue him, hence it comes to pass that, in the same manner, the whole Church of God, under its Head, will gloriously exult over him. To this the declaration of Paul refers, "The Lord shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly," (Rom 16:20.) By which words he signifies that the power of bruising Satan is imparted to faithful men, and thus the blessing is the common property of the whole Church; but he, at the same time, admonishes us, that it only has its commencement in this world; because God crowns none but well - tried wrestlers.

Pulpit commentary -

Genesis 3:15 - Thy head. I.e. the superior part of thee (Calvin), meaning that the serpent would be completely destroyed, the head of the reptile being that part of its body in which a wound was most dangerous, and which the creature itself instinctively protects; or the import of the expression may be, He shall attack thee in a bold and manly way (T. Lewis). And thou shalt bruise his heel. I.e. the inferior part (Calvin), implying that in the conflict he would be wounded, but not destroyed; or "the biting of the heel may denote the mean, insidious character of the devil's warfare" (T. Lewis).

Matthew Poole - the seed, Ga 3:16,19; whose alone work it is to break the serpent's head, i.e. to destroy the devil, Heb 2:14. Compare John 12:31; Ro 16:20. Secondly, and by way of participation, all the members of Christ, all believers and holy men, who are called the children of Christ, Heb 2:13, and of the heavenly Jerusalem, Ga 4:26. All the members whereof are the seed of this woman; and all these are the implacable enemies of the devil, whom also by Christ's merit and strength they do overcome.

The head is the principal instrument both of the serpent's fury and mischief, and of his defence, and the principal seat of the serpent's life, which therefore men chiefly strike at; and which being upon him ground, a man may conveniently tread upon, and crush it to pieces. In the devil this
notes his power and authority over men; the strength whereof consists in death, which Christ, the blessed Seed of the woman, overthreweth by taking away the sting of death, which is sin, 1Co 15:55,56: and destroying him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, Heb 2:14.

The heel is the part which is most within the serpent's reach, and wherewith it was bruised, and thereby provoked to fix his venomous teeth there; but a part remote from the head and heart, and therefore its wounds, though painful, are not deadly, nor dangerous, if they be observed in time. If it be applied to the Seed of the woman, Christ, his heel may note either his humanity, whereby he trod upon the earth, which indeed the devil, by God's permission, and the hands of wicked men, did bruise and kill; or his saints and members upon the earth, whom the devil doth in diverse manners bruise, and vex, and afflict, while he cannot reach their Head, Christ, in heaven, nor those of his members who are or shall be advanced thither.

Matthew Henry - (2.) His sufferings and death, pointed at in Satan's bruising his heel, that is, his human nature. Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness, to draw him into sin; and some think it was Satan that terrified Christ in his agony, to drive him to despair. It was the devil that put it into the heart of Judas to betray Christ, of Peter to deny him, of the chief priests to prosecute him, of the false witnesses to accuse him, and of Pilate to condemn him, aiming in all this, by destroying the Savior, to ruin the salvation; but, on the contrary, it was by death that Christ destroyed him that had the power of death, Heb 2:14. Christ's heel was bruised when his feet were pierced and nailed to the cross, and Christ's sufferings are continued in the sufferings of the saints for his name. The devil tempts them, casts them into prison, persecutes and slays them, and so bruises the heel of Christ, who is afflicted in their afflictions. But, while the heel is bruised on earth, it is well that the head is safe in heaven.

John Wesley - Notice is here given them of three things concerning Christ. (1.) His incarnation, that he should be the seed of the woman. (2.) His sufferings and death, pointed at in Satan's bruising his heel, that is, his human nature. Satan had now trampled upon the woman, and insulted over her; but the seed of the woman should be raised up in the fulness of time to avenge her quarrel, and to trample upon him, to spoil him, to lead him captive, and to triumph over him, Col 2:15.

Jameison, Faucett, Brown - thou shalt bruise his heel--The serpent wounds the heel that crushes him; and so Satan would be permitted to afflict the humanity of Christ and bring suffering and persecution on His people. it shall bruise thy head--The serpent's poison is lodged in its head; and a bruise on that part is fatal. Thus, fatal shall be the stroke which Satan shall receive from Christ, though it is probable he did not at first understand the nature and extent of his doom.

Clarke - But there is a deeper meaning in the text than even this, especially in these words, it shall bruise thy head, or rather, awh hu, HE; who? the seed of the woman; the person is to come by the woman, and by her alone, without the concurrence of man. Therefore the address is not to Adam and Eve, but to Eve alone; and it was in consequence of this purpose of God that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin; this, and this alone, is what is implied in the promise of the seed of the woman bruising the head of the serpent. Jesus Christ died to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and to destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Thus he bruises his head-destroys his power and lordship over mankind, turning them from the power of Satan unto God; Ac 26:18. And Satan bruises his heel-God so ordered it, that the salvation of man could only be brought about by the death of Christ; and even the spiritual seed of our blessed Lord have the heel often bruised, as they suffer persecution, temptation, &c., which may be all that is intended by this part of the prophecy.