“What was the single most significant event in all of human history?”

For that event, we need to go to the third chapter of the book of Genesis and talk about “The Fall of Man” as recorded there.

“Therefore, as by one man sin entered the world [Adam], and death through sin [Genesis 3], so death passed onto all men (and women) . . . ” Romans 5:12

First – God pronounces additional consequences on the snake, and on the real culprit behind the snake – Satan!

“So the LORD God said to the snake, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all the cattle and beasts of the field. On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat, all the days of your life.’” Genesis 3:14

“Scientists who analyzed genes from all living families of lizards have concluded that Earth’s first snakes lived on land, not in the ocean, and evolved into limbless creatures . . . Losing their legs as they adapted to a burrowing lifestyle.” “Study: Snakes Didn’t Slither in from the Sea” USA Today (February 3, 2004)

“And I will put enmity [hatred] between you [Satan] and the woman, between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head [deal you a fatal blow] and you will strike his heel [deal him a glancing blow].” Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:15 predicts both the course of human history.

When it comes to “the course of human history” – Genesis 3:15 predicts that the human race will exist in a state of constant conflict.

The reason for this is that Adam and Eve will have godly offspring who will have continual “enmity” [hostility] with Satan and his ungodly offspring!

“You are the offspring of your father, the devil, and you want to do his deeds.” John 8:44

“Satan’s offspring” are people down through the ages who willingly follow Satan in his rebellion against God.

Genesis 3:15 tells about the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“He [singular] will crush your head [deal you a fatal blow] and you [Satan] will strike his heel [deal him a glancing blow].” Genesis 3:15b

“He” = “the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ – the “offspring [Hebrew literally = “Seed” singular] of the woman.”

“The Scripture does not say ‘seeds,’ meaning many people, but ‘Seed,’ meaning one person, who is Christ.” Galatians 3:16

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman . . . ” Galatians 4:4

Genesis 3:15 is clearly a reference to the Virgin Birth – where no “man” was involved!

Genesis 3:15 goes on to tell us that the “ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ” will involve a battle between Him and Satan personally!

In this personal battle, Satan inflicts a “glancing blow” against Jesus, i.e., the crucifixion.
“Then Satan entered into Judas, and Jesus said to Judas, ‘What you do, do quickly’ . . . So Judas went out immediately.” John 13:27

The real “mover and shaker” behind the crucifixion of Jesus was Satan himself – personally!

As Genesis 3:15 predicted, the crucifixion of Jesus was merely a “glancing blow” – because Jesus rose from the dead!

And soon, Jesus is coming back to deliver the “fatal blow” to Satan that God predicted thousands of years ago in Genesis 3.

“Then the devil, who deceived the human race, will be thrown into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:10

What we have here in Genesis 3:15 is the promise of a glorious Savior . . .

• Who will be born by the Virgin Birth
• Who will defeat the devil
• Who will destroy him beyond remedy
• Who will deliver mankind from his grasp forever

Genesis 3:15 = “Proto-evangelium”

• The “first announcement of the Gospel”
• The “first announcement of the Messiah” and of His victorious ministry of salvation to the human race

“Genesis 3:15 is a message of hope for all mankind.”

“It is God’s promise that He will not let the forces of evil and sin prevail over His creation, but that He will deliver mankind from their grip.”

“God punished our first parents for their disobedience but, in His mercy, God mitigated their sentence by promising a Savior, who would crush the power of Satan and offer redemption to mankind.”

“And this Savior, of course, is Jesus Christ!”

Next – God pronounces additional consequences on Eve.

“To the woman, God said, ‘I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth; in pain you shall give birth to children. And your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.’” Genesis 3:16

#1 – Pain in childbirth
#2 – Spiritual subordination to Adam

The clear record of Genesis 3 is that Eve took control and used it to persuade Adam to sin. As a result, God places Eve in a position of subordinate spiritual authority to Adam.

This teaching is repeated several times in the New Testament, making it a timeless, cultureless principle of God’s Word.

“I do not allow women to exercise spiritual authority over men . . . For it was not Adam who was deceived, but it was Eve who, being quite deceived, first fell into disobedience.” 1 Timothy 2:12, 14

Ephesians 5 is clear that God intends a man to exercise this authority by loving, cherishing, respecting, and granting honor to his wife and all woman.

Finally – God pronounces additional consequences on Adam.
“Then to Adam God said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you saying, “You shall not eat from it”; cursed is the ground because of you; in sorrow you shall eat from it all the days of your life.’” Genesis 3:17

“It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field.” Genesis 3:18

“By the sweat of your brow you shall eat your food until you return to the ground. Because from the ground you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19

Because of Adam’s sin, God pronounces a curse on all of creation:
- The ground will fight back now
- Work will be laborious now
- Man’s lot in life will be hard now
- Death will be universal now

“For the creation was subjected to futility [Greek: “uselessness/wantonness”], not of its own will, but by the will of Him [God] who decided to do this [i.e., in Genesis 3].” Romans 8:20a

“Therefore, the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, to work the ground from which Adam had been taken.” Genesis 3:23

So What?

Into His curse on the human race and creation, God built a great current of hope!

**Hope #1** – “proto-evangelism”
God’s promise that one day the Messiah would come and redeem mankind from sin. And then following this, that same Messiah would come back to irreparably and irrecoverably crush Satan – and remove his deceiving influence over mankind once and for all.

**Hope #2** – God immediately made a way for the spiritual consequences of the Garden of Eden to be remedied.

**Hope #3** – The fact that God’s curse on mankind/creation is only temporary

“For the creation was subjected to futility [Greek: “uselessness/wantonness”], not of its own will, but by the will of Him [God] who decided to do this.” Romans 8:20a

“But this was done in hope! Because one day, the creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay . . .” Romans 8:20b

- Romans 8:21 – [when we as believers] “come into our glorious freedom as the children of God.”
- Romans 8:23 – [when we experience] “the redemption of our bodies”
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 – at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

“And God shall wipe away every tear from our eyes, and there shall no longer be any death; or mourning or crying or pain; for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore.” Isaiah 2:4

“The cow will feed with the bear . . . the lion shall eat straw like the ox . . . the wolf will lie down with the lamb.” Isaiah 11:6, 7

“The infant will play near the hole of the cobra and the young child will put his hand in the viper’s nest. No one will harm or destroy any longer on all my holy mountain.” Isaiah 11:8, 9a

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD just as the waters cover the sea.” Isaiah 11:9b
“In that day, the LORD will be King over all the earth. In that day, the LORD shall be One and His Name One.” Zechariah 14:9

“And there shall no longer be any curse . . .” Revelation 22:3

Everything God laid on mankind and creation in Genesis 3 – God is going to take off mankind and creation when Jesus returns at His Second Coming!

“. . . the blessed hope . . .” Titus 2:13

“. . . there will be terrible times in the last days.” 2 Timothy 3:1

“Evil people and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived.” 2 Timothy 3:13

As the Second Coming of Jesus gets closer, Satan’s ministry of evil and deception will reach fever pitch here on earth.

“But you, Timothy, continue . . .” 2 Timothy 3:14

#1 – Continue in personal purity
“We should say ‘no’ to ungodliness and should live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age, while we await the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:12, 13

#2 – Continue laying up treasure in heaven
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth . . . But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven . . .” Matthew 6:19

#3 – Continue sharing our faith
“Preach the word!” 2 Timothy 4:2

#4 – Continue doing what’s right
“There’s nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known.” Luke 12:2

“Therefore, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58