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THE SEED OF THE WOMAN . . .

*And thou shalt call His name Jesus: For He shall save
His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)*

The Christmas Story really starts in Genesis. It is the most awesome drama in all of the Bible! The story of God's salvation to man makes anything Hollywood has ever produced look like third rate junk! Fasten your spiritual seat belt for the **E TICKET** thrill ride of all time!

It all starts in the Garden of Eden — Eve believes the lie of the devil and eats of the forbidden fruit. Adam also eats and sin enters the world. Man has given God's beautiful creation to Satan and as a result **DEATH** enters for the first time.

But here is where the adventure really begins, because **GOD IS GREATER THAN** Satan! I know that sounds over simplistic, but did you know there are millions alive today that **DO NOT KNOW THIS**? Many still believe the lie that Satan is greater than the Lord God Jehovah. Many do not know that:

*He (God) is not willing that any should
perish but that ALL should come to
repentance. (II Peter 3:9)*

And so, GOD so loved the world that He **GAVE** — but what would He give? Imagine yourself back at the beginning of things. No prophecies yet, no scripture, no new testament, no Jesus, no knowledge of God's great plan to redeem fallen man back to Himself.

But right at the beginning in Genesis, God makes a statement that sends cold chills through the devil — the first clue that God is going to do something about man's fallen estate:

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

What a strange statement — looking back, of course, we understand. The seed of the woman is Jesus and on the Cross Jesus crushed the serpent's head. In dealing this fatal blow to the devil's kingdom, Jesus was bruised horribly on the Cross. But back in Genesis even Satan did not understand the mystery of God's great plan of salvation! This is evident from Paul's statement in I Corinthians:

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But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery . . . which none of the princes of this world knew (Satan): For had they known it, they would have not crucified the Lord of glory. (I Corinthians 2:7, 8)

But, Satan did realize from God's statement in Genesis that something was up! Who was this **"SEED OF A WOMAN?"** All hell was on red alert to find out! The second clue comes in Genesis 22 where we find that the **SEED** would come through Abraham. What untold horrors have been heaped upon the Jewish race by Satan as he has sought to destroy the entire race again and again, to stop the promised seed. Even after Jesus came He still seeks to destroy the Jews out of revenge for producing the chosen **SEED** — Jesus.

The next clue or promise comes to the House of **DAVID**. The pace quickens and the field narrows. Satan keeps his eye on this line. With great cunning he plots his strategy to destroy it, so that God's promise will fail and that the **"seed of the woman", who is to bruise his head, will never be born. Three major attempts are recorded in II Chronicles.**

We read first of Jehoram, who succeeded his father Jehoshaphat of the royal line of David. When he was thirty-two, we read that, "he strengthened himself and slew All his brethren with the sword". What did that mean? It meant that all the royal line of David, through Solomon, was dead, except for Jehoram. Think of it! The fulfillment of God's promise hung upon the life of ONE MAN, and a wicked man at that!

The Lord, however, must judge this wicked king Jehoram. The Phillistines come and according to the Scriptures — "they carried away all of Jehoram's substance, and his sons also, **SO THAT THERE WAS NOT A SON LEFT HIM**" — WHAT? — Has Satan finally succeeded? But wait — the text goes on — . . . "There was not a son left him SAVE JEHOAHAZ, the youngest of his sons." (II Chronicles 21:17). Only one son left! But the royal line is once more preserved by the faithful God.

We now read of one of the foulest deeds in all history. For when King Jehoahaz died, he left many sons, all legal successors in the line of David. But Athaliah, his own mother, covetous for the throne herself, "destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah." (II Chronicles 22:10). Now, surely, Satan has won. He has found a grandmother vile enough to slaughter her own grandchildren!

All the seed royal, destroyed? Ah, read on: "But the daughter of the King took Joash . . . and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not." The whole plan of God to send a Saviour, the Seed of the Woman, now rests on the life of a little child!

Hundreds of other attempts are made from the slaughter of the male babies by Pharoah in Egypt to the slaughter of the male babies by Herod — all of these attempts were the mad ravings of a desperate Satan, seeking to save his ill gotten kingdom by destroying the promised seed of the woman.

Finally the long promised seed arrives! Angel choirs filled the Judean skies over Bethlehem! Shepherds, Wise Men, Stars and Prophets confirm that — **HE IS HERE!** How well might we exclaim — "Oh the depth of riches of both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

Now Satan's plot moves into high gear! Now he **knows** who the seed of the woman **IS!** Day and night he hatches scheme after scheme. Herod's slaughter, the temptation, storms, death plots and finally a Roman Cross! As he moves toward Golgotha, they spit on him and pull his beard from His face. A crown of thorns, a mock robe and then — His groans are muffled by the ring of hammer on cruel spikes that rip the flesh. The cross is hoisted and sinks into the ground with a sickening thud. He cries aloud: **"MY GOD! MY GOD! Why hast thou forsaken me!" He is dying — the seed of the woman is dead! All hell rejoices! Surely Satan has won — his wicked kingdom is secure.**

But in the evil act of crucifying Jesus, Satan overplayed his hand! He did not yet understand the mystery of God's salvation. When he killed Jesus He brought the sentence of Almighty God upon himself because he killed the first totally innocent man! Satan had fallen victim to God's great plan — the Deceiver was outwitted and was used to perform the very will of God!

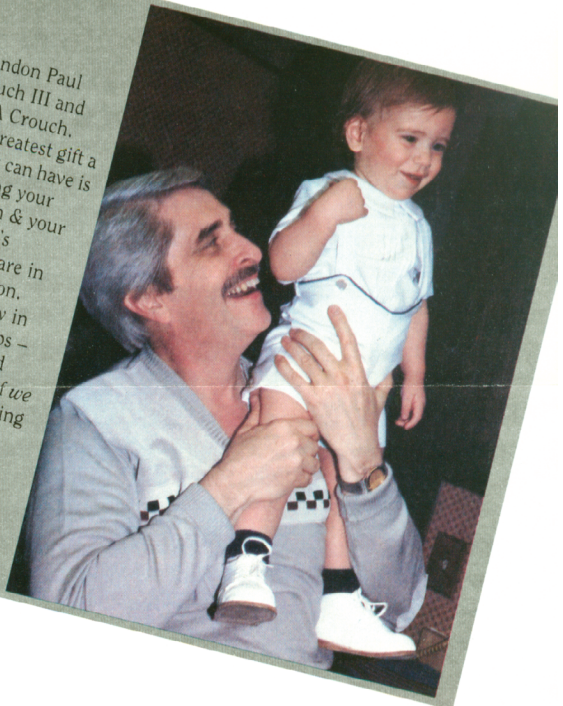
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ESUS LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE!



Your love letters and Praise reports are a constant *source of joy*. Thank you for your LOVE. Thank you for your support. And thank you; Jesus, for blessing your people through TBN.

Brandon Paul Crouch III and PAPA Crouch. The greatest gift a parent can have is knowing your children & your children's children are in the kingdom. They follow in our footsteps – where would Brandon be if we were not serving God?



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Guests like Pat & Shirley Boone help make "Praise" so special! Thank you all – *We love you!*

A precious partner from Seattle. Over 90 years old and supports your Trinity. We love you Gramma and all the Grammas who support.

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*"And having spoiled principalities and powers,
he made a show of them openly, triumphing over
them in it." (Colossians 2:15)*

Praise God — the very Word of the Lord finally fulfilled! The seed of the woman DID INDEED BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD! HALLELUJAH!

And then,

***"UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE, WITH A MIGHTY TRIUMPH
O'RE HIS FOES. HE AROSE, HALLELUJAH, CHRIST AROSE!"***

Yes, the Christmas story is on the one hand beautifully simple and serene. But from God's perspective it is the greatest drama of All eternity! What a tragedy to celebrate Christmas with all the lights and tinsel as millions do — never knowing the Greatest Story ever told! Know Him today! Know this **"SEED OF THE WOMAN"** Jesus the Saviour:

*"THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS; FOR HE SHALL SAVE
HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."*

May this be the happiest Christmas season ever for you and yours! Jan and I love you with all our hearts and wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with great spiritual adventure.

Paul

Our Love Gift To You!

A SPECIAL TBN FAMILY picture calendar is our love gift to you. It is our joy at Christmas to bring the love of your TBN FAMILY to your home. A personally written message is on each page — it will serve as a special 'prayer reminder' for the coming year.

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