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Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed.”
Genesis 3:15a

Adversary



Peter Paul Rubens

“Can we all get along?” was the emotional plea of Rodney King as he stood before microphones and cameras during the explosive 1992 Los Angeles race riots. The violence and destruction had come after the trial and verdict of acquittal of the police officers that had been videotaped beating King during a traffic stop.

To answer the now-deceased Mr. King: No, we cannot. Whether it is strife between the races, between the poor and the wealthy, between warring nations, man will always fight against man. It is in our DNA; it is in our genes. We are born that way.

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And between your seed and her seed.”
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The die was cast long ago in the garden of Eden when the fall of man produced its first cosmic consequence: an enduring hostility between good and evil on earth. The battle had already been waged for some time in the heavenlies, since the fall of the beautiful, “covering” angel.

“By the abundance of your trade
You were internally filled with violence,
And you sinned;
Therefore I have cast you as profane
From the mountain of God.”
Ezekiel 28:16a

Satan—the name itself means “adversary”—and his “seed” would forever be in opposition to not just *the* Seed of the first woman, Christ, but His followers as well.

[Jesus said,] “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”

Luke 11:23

Thus we have the inevitable and unrelenting battle of evil against good, good against evil.

Since man is born in opposition to God, with a sinful, depraved nature, he is born on the wrong (and, ultimately, losing) side of this cosmic battle. He is born, as it were, the serpent’s seed. But when he is *reborn*—born *again* by God the Father and God the Holy Spirit—man switches his allegiance to the winning side. He is now seed of the woman, through the sacrifice of *the* Seed, Christ, and now in a state of enmity against his former “father.”

“You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in

the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John 8:44



The dramatic evidence in God’s word reveals the futility of playing both sides, of trying to have it both ways. If Satan cannot, mere humans cannot stand astride this divide. When the beautiful and highly favored cherub of heaven turned evil, he had to leave heaven and the

presence of God. And when we accept the Holy Spirit’s leading and are born anew through the blood of Christ, we cannot remain the friendly familiar with our previous father, that dust-choked serpent. Though the cursed sin nature remains so long as we inhabit flesh, believers are sanctified in Christ, and have relinquished their place in the household of the enemy.

The condition of enmity between Satan and God, between Satan’s seed and the woman’s seed, between evil and good means that we must decide on which side of the divide we will dwell.

And there, in our interests, in our passions, in our devotion, remain.

