

Treasure Hunt

- What original promise and ultimate fulfillment are we considering?
- What is the pattern of “manifold fulfillment”?
- What example of it have we seen before?
- What three features are often reflected in the successive stages of this promise?
- The story of the Shunammite’s son doesn’t contain any of these features. How is it linked into the series?
- How is Isa 7:14 different from the other stages of the promise?
- Do we see a progression in the successive stages?
- How does this promise affect our Christian life today?

An Ancient Promise

The promise in Eden:

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and **thy conception**; in sorrow **thou shalt bring forth children**; and thy desire [shall be] to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, ... 15 ... 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.**

The arrival of the deliverer:



Lk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt **conceive** in thy womb, and **bring forth a son**, and shalt **call his name JESUS**. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The promise fulfilled:

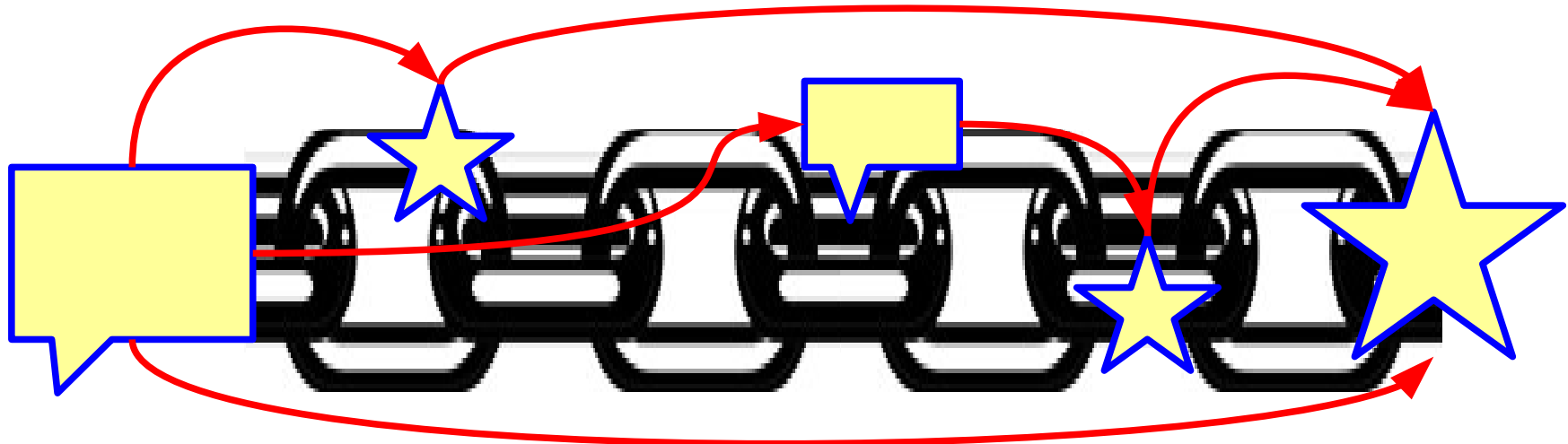
Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise **took part of the same** [born of a woman]; that **through death** [his heel was bruised] he might **destroy him** that had the power of death, that is, the devil [he crushed the Serpent's head];

Manifold Fulfillment*

An initial prophecy may be **repeated** down through history,

- sometimes in **words** and 
- sometimes in **events** that 
 - **foreshadow** or
 - **partially realize** the promise,

until the time of the actual fulfillment.



*The term is due to Willis Judson Beecher, *The Prophets and the Promise*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1905. The definition is my own, based on his discussion.

Israel and the Gentiles

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psa 72:10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. 11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. ... 15 ... and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba:

Mat 2:1 there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ... 11 ... they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Rev 21:24... the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Josh 9 the Gibeonites

1Ki 10:1 ... the queen of Sheba ... 2 ... came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones:

Isaiah 23, 45, 60, 61

The Promise to the Woman...

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she **conceived**, and **bare** Cain, and said, **I have gotten** a man from the LORD.

Ge 17:19 Sarah thy wife shall **bear thee a son** indeed; and thou shalt **call his name** Isaac:

2 Ki 4:16 About this season, **according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.**

Lu 1:13 thy wife Elisabeth shall **bear thee a son**, and thou shalt **call his name** John.

Gen 3:16 I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy **conception**; in sorrow thou shalt **bring forth** children;

Gen 16:11 Behold, thou [art] **with child**, and shalt **bear a son**, and shalt **call his name** Ishmael;

Jud 13:3 Behold now, thou [art] barren, and bearest not: but **thou shalt conceive**, and **bear a son.**

Isa 7:14 Behold, a virgin shall **conceive**, and **bear a son**, and shall **call his name** Immanuel.

Lk 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt **conceive** in thy womb, and **bring forth a son**, and shalt **call his name** JESUS.

... but what about the promise to the Serpent?

Sarah and the Shunammite

God to Sarah	Elisha to the Shunammite
<p>Ge 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, [and] with his seed after him.</p>	
<p>Gen 18:10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard <i>it</i> in the tent door, which <i>was</i> behind him. ... 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.</p>	<p>2Ki 4:14 And he [Elisha] said, What then <i>is</i> to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old. 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. 16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, <i>thou</i> man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.</p>

Surveying the Bruises

Gen 3:15	Her seed ... shall bruise thy head	Thou shalt bruise his heel
Gen 4:1, Cain	Shows that the woman would have seed	Shows the sin nature in slaying Abel
Gen 16:11, Ishmael	Reveals the Lord to Hagar	Shows the sin nature in strife and revenge
Gen 17:19, Isaac	Makes possible the promised seed through Abraham	Weak husband and father; repeats Abram's sins
Judg 13:3, Samson	Delivers Israel from Philistines	Shows sin nature in pagan lovers
2 Kings 4:16, son of the Shunammite	Rises from the dead, showing that death can be overcome	Dies while working with his father
Luke 1:13, John	Rebukes temple and palace, announces the Messiah	Slain by Herod
Luke 1:31, our Lord	Redeems God's flock by dying and rising again	Rejected and crucified

Understanding our Struggle

Satan bruises our heel:

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

We bruise his head:

19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. 20 **And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.**

Our resource in the conflict:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.