

The Shot Heard Around the World

By Doug Hamilton

Genesis 3:1-6

- The serpent, aka the devil, tempted the woman with the forbidden fruit. He used some truth with a lie to make it believable, twisting the words of the LORD.
- It appeared tasty to the tongue, a delight to the eyes and independence from God. The Apostle John would later go on to indirectly describe it in *1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*
- Her husband was no better for he was standing right there, following instead of leading. He was created to lead, not follow. *1 Timothy 2:13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*

Genesis 3:7-13

- With Adam and Eve now in the grips of rebellion against the word of God, they tried coping with it in unhealthy ways. They tried covering up their sins; they tried hiding from God; they tried blaming others. None of these strategies would suffice and the LORD would deal out retribution to all involved.

Genesis 3:16-19

- God pronounced that for Eve's punishment for not yielding to her husband would be increased pain in her childbirth and a life-long yielding to Adam for leadership.
- God said that Adam would no longer would he have the care-free life of living off the Garden of Eden, but would become a slave to the ground. He would work for every bit of grain that would come from the ground. He would be a slave to the ground until he returned to the ground in death.
- What is of interest is what the punishment was for the serpent.

Genesis 3:14-15 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 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."

- As God pronounced, the devil would continue to live a cursed life. The LORD said that there would be continual strife between the serpent and the woman, between his seed and her seed. He would have the power to bruise the heel of her seed, but that there would come a bruising to his heel. That is rather an odd proclamation to give the serpent and needs a bit of explaining.
- The devil will wage a war of crippling wounds to the heel of all mankind, but there was One that was coming that would lay a mortal wound on the head of the serpent. It was that One that would be able to destroy the works of the devil.
- If God cannot keep His word, then the world which was framed by His word would cease to exist (Hebrews 11:3). He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18) for His word is truth (John 17:17). Romans 3:4 "...let God be true, but every man a liar..."

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The Babe Ruth Legend

October 1, 1932: It was the fifth game of the World Series, with the Yankees taking on the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field. A batter named Babe Ruth came up to the plate. He had been ridiculed and mocked by the Cub players. Charlie Root, the pitcher for the Cubs, had already thrown two strikes and two balls to Ruth. The unfriendly crowd was cheering for they knew that they were one strike from stopping the greatest homerun slugger of the day.



Ruth pointed out to centerfield, appearing to indicate that he was going to hit the next pitch to that location. The pitcher gripped the ball, wound up the pitch and fired a curve ball. With a swing and the crack of the bat, the ball sailed in that direction. Calling the game over the radio, broadcaster Tom Manning shouted, "The ball is going, going, going, high into the center field stands...and it is a home run!" He had hit the ball 440 feet into centerfield, just as predicted.

Application:

- On that day in the Garden, God pointed out to the centerfield, calling a homerun for His kingdom. He said that there was going to come the Messiah from the seed-line of Eve. He will be destroying the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Attempts to Strikeout God

Cain and Able (Genesis 4): The "Brother's Hatred" Pitch

- Genesis 4:8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
- The Birth of Seth kept the promise of God alive.

Noah (Genesis 6): The "Prevailing Wickedness" Pitch

- Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- The righteousness of Noah resulted in the building of an ark and the promise of God was still good.

Abraham (Genesis 12): The "Barren Womb" Pitch

- Genesis 11:30 Sarai was barren; she had no child.
- The birth of Isaac kept the promise of God alive.

Jacob (Genesis 37): The "Sibling Rivalry" Pitch

- Genesis 37:26-27 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our *own* flesh." And his brothers listened *to him*.
- The promotion of Joseph to Prime Minister of Egypt kept the promise of God alive.

Pharaoh (Exodus 1): The "Wicked Man" Pitch

- Exodus 1:8-9 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.

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- Pharaoh had a wicked plan to eliminate the nation of Israel by feeding their baby boys to the crocodiles in the Nile. In just a couple of generations, God's plan to bring a Messiah through the Jewish nation would be dashed.
- When Moses was plucked up out of the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, the promise of God was kept alive. The first forty years he was a princely son, the second forty a laboring shepherd and the third forty a holy deliverer to the people of God.

Ruth (Ruth 1): The "Racism" Pitch

- Ruth 1:22 So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.
- The marriage to Boaz and the birth of Obed kept the promise of God alive.

David (2Sam 11): The "Lustful Heart" Pitch

- 2 Samuel 11:2 Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.
- The repentance of David and the birth of Solomon kept the promise of God alive.

Solomon (1Kings 11): The "Fame and Fortune" Pitch

- 1 Kings 11:9-10 Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded.
- He could not handle the notoriety that comes with being king and ended up succumbing to the sins of his many concubines and wives. The passing of the kingdom to his son Rehoboam kept the promise of God alive.

Joash (2 Kings 11): The "Crazy Woman" Pitch

- 2 Kings 11:1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring.
- There was one little baby that she did not kill; his name was Joash. He was hidden from crazy Athaliah for seven years. It was only at the point of that eight year old taking the throne that the promise of God was kept alive.

Hezekiah (2 Kings 20): The "Fatal Illness" Pitch

- 2 Kings 20:1-3 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"² Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,³ "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
- He had no children at the time and if he died, then God was a liar. He was healed and lived fifteen more years as predicted. It was the birth of his wicked son Manasseh that kept the promise of God alive.

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Esther (Esther 3): The “Vile Plot” Pitch

- Esther 3:13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder.
- The marriage of Esther to the King and the promotion of Mordecai to Prime Minister kept the promise of God alive.

The Early Ministry of Jesus: The “Great Temptation” Pitch

Matthew 4:1-11

- Jesus was tempted with lust of the flesh: Mt 4:2-4 Eat bread for hunger.
- Jesus was tempted with lust of the eyes: Mt 4:5-7 Make a scene for all to see.
- Jesus was tempted with the pride of life: Mt 4:8-10 Gain the kingdoms of the world.

Jesus: The “Death” Pitch

- Matthew 27:50-51 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.
⁵¹ And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.
- When Jesus died on the cross, the devil had to have celebrated, for he stopped the Golden Child of God. There would be no keeping of the promise of Genesis 3:15.

Victory through Jesus!

- Luke 24:6-8 “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” ⁸ And they remembered His words...”
- It took three days of celebrating in the locker room with his demons before the devil got the word of a late swing of the bat. God said there would be a Messiah coming to undo the works of the devil and now it happened.
- It says in 1 Corinthians 2:8 “...none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory...”

God was Victorious!

- Hebrews 2:14 “...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...”
- Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

What can stop God from keeping His word?

Can a Brother’s Hatred, Prevailing Wickedness, a Barren Womb, Sibling Rivalry, a Wicked Man, Racism, a Lustful Heart, Fame and Fortune, a Crazy Women, Fatal Illness, a Vile Plot and Great Temptation? All were attempted and all failed.

What can stop the workings of God in your life today?

Nothing if you simply commit to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.