

## Human Nature versus God

The third and greatest international assault against the freshly established government of Jesus in Jerusalem will be the climax of an age-long hostility. It is a murderous antagonism which is as old as mankind - that of rebellious human nature against those who choose to obey God. Jesus referred to this in his warning to his enemies, the scribes and Pharisees, the religious authorities in that place, saying that they were the moral descendants of - **Matthew 23:31** - "*those who murdered the prophets*". Upon their sort, the persecutors of Christ's disciples, in little more than forty years, would come a terrible retribution when the Romans destroyed **38** "*their house*". That enmity of the religious authorities against Jesus was the same sort that had resulted in the first murder - **35** "*that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel...*" That same enmity was foreseen in the pronouncement of God to the serpent, after Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden tree, **Genesis 3:15** - "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*" The promised seed, or offspring of the woman, but not of a man, is Jesus, whose enemies he pointedly called - **Matthew 23:33** - "*Serpents, brood of vipers*" - because they were also the moral seed or offspring of the serpent. While these men, with the volunteer help of Judas, did their worst in arranging the crucifixion of Jesus, they merely managed to "*bruise his heel*" with a temporary wound, because God raised him back to life on the third day. The bruising of the serpent's head is closely associated with the wounding of the woman's offspring, and in the terms of a later promise by God, would result in the blessing of **Genesis 22:18** "*all the nations of the earth*" given because Abraham was willing to offer up his son to God.

Paul confirms that it was a literal snake that tempted Eve - **2 Corinthians 11:3** "*... as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness ...*" But after the fall God used that animal as a **figure\*1** for that which the serpent successfully appealed to - which is sinful human nature, a metaphor used into the last book of the Scriptures - **Revelation 20:2** "*He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years*" - the rebelliousness of human nature against the will of God is noted in individuals such as Judas Iscariot - **John 6:70** "*... Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?*" We have already seen this same characteristic collectively displayed in the religious authorities, called a "*brood of vipers*" or offspring of the serpent, who opposed Jesus. And in **Revelation** we find another collective display of human resistance to Divine will in political form.

That final organized resistance against God's authority will be crushed by Christ. This was foreseen in the dream of the image, seen by the king of Babylon and explained by the prophet **Daniel.\*2** The king was concerned **Daniel 2:29** "*about what would come to pass after*" his reign "*and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be*". The gold head represented this king, which would be followed by **39** "*another kingdom inferior to his*" - the silver chest and arms. That kingdom in turn would be followed by another, "*a third kingdom of bronze*" belly and thighs, and that superceded by the iron legs of the image, representing **40** "*the fourth kingdom*" which would "*be as strong as iron*". The iron kingdom would end in a divided state **41** "*the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron*", upon which a stone will fall and **44** "*break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever*", the stone becoming **35** "*a great mountain and filling the whole earth*". In a parallel prophecy, this is represented as "*ten kings*" who **Revelation 17:12-14** "*will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*"

\*Click for more details: [1-Bible figure for human sin 2-The image dream prophecy.](#)