



First and Last Prophecies of the Bible

Introduction

The Bible begins with prophecy and ends with prophecy, forming bookends to the grand story of redemption. The first prophecy, given in Genesis 3:15, promises conflict between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, culminating in ultimate victory. The last prophecy, found in Revelation 22:12–20, promises Christ’s return, judgment, and reward. These passages connect the fall in Eden with the final restoration in the new heaven and new earth. Together, they show God’s sovereignty, the certainty of His promises, and the hope that unites the whole of Scripture.

The First Prophecy: Genesis 3:15

After Adam and Eve’s sin, God pronounced judgment on the serpent:

“And 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” (Genesis 3:15).

This prophecy, often called the *protoevangelium* (first gospel), contains several truths:

- A continual conflict will exist between the serpent’s offspring and the woman’s offspring.
- A male descendant (“he”) will come to crush the serpent’s head.
- The serpent will wound Him in the process (“bruise his heel”).

It is the earliest glimpse of redemption: the promise of a Deliverer who defeats Satan while suffering Himself.

The Meaning of the Seed

The concept of “seed” runs throughout Scripture. God promised Abraham, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 22:18). Paul explains this as referring ultimately to Christ (Galatians 3:16).

Thus, Genesis 3:15 sets the trajectory for the entire biblical narrative: the line of the woman, through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David, leads to Christ, the final seed



who destroys Satan.

The Serpent's Defeat in Christ

The enmity between seeds is evident throughout biblical history:

- Cain kills Abel (Genesis 4:8), demonstrating hostility between the righteous and the wicked.
- Pharaoh tries to kill the Israelite sons (Exodus 1:16).
- Herod seeks to kill the newborn Jesus (Matthew 2:16).

This conflict is both physical and spiritual. Paul reminds believers: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers” (Ephesians 6:12). The prophecy of Genesis 3:15 reveals why history is filled with strife—behind it lies the ancient enmity between the serpent and the promised seed.

The Last Prophecy: Revelation 22

The Bible ends with prophecy in Revelation 22:12–20. Jesus says:

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12).

The prophecy emphasizes:

- **The certainty of Christ's return.** “Surely I come quickly” (Revelation 22:20).
- **The justice of His judgment.** Reward or recompense is given according to works.
- **The authority of His person.** “I am **Alpha and Omega**, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13).
- **The urgency of readiness.** “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life” (Revelation 22:14).

This last prophecy brings the story full circle, promising restoration of what was lost in Eden.

Parallels Between the First and Last Prophecies

Genesis 3 and Revelation 22 connect like bookends:



- **The serpent.** Introduced in Genesis, destroyed in Revelation (Revelation 20:10).
- **The curse.** Announced in Genesis, removed in Revelation: “And there shall be no more curse” (Revelation 22:3).
- **The tree of life.** Lost in Genesis 3:24, restored in Revelation 22:2.
- **Separation from God.** In Eden, man is driven out; in Revelation, God dwells with His people forever (Revelation 21:3).

The unity of Scripture is displayed: what was broken in Genesis is healed in Revelation.

The Role of Prophecy in the Whole Bible

Prophecy frames the entire story of redemption. Jesus explained: “All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44).

Revelation 19:10 affirms: “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). Prophecy is not primarily about curiosity but about Christ Himself—the first prophecy promises Him, the last prophecy assures His return.

Application for Believers

The first and last prophecies provide both warning and hope:

- **Warning.** The serpent still opposes God’s people; we must remain vigilant. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil... walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
- **Hope.** Christ’s victory is certain. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).
- **Encouragement.** God’s story ends in restoration, not despair. “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4).

Believers live between the first prophecy, already fulfilled in Christ’s victory, and the last prophecy, awaiting His return.

The Unity of Redemption History

Genesis opens with creation, fall, curse, and promise. Revelation closes with a new creation, redemption, and eternal blessing. The continuity proves that history is not random but directed by God. His purposes span millennia but remain unbroken.



The first prophecy assures a Redeemer; the last prophecy assures His coming again. Together, they show that God finishes what He begins.

Conclusion

The Bible's first and last prophecies reveal the sweep of God's plan. Genesis 3:15 promises victory over the serpent through the seed of the woman. Revelation 22 promises the seed's return, judgment, and eternal fellowship with His people. From the beginning to the end, prophecy reveals Christ: the one who conquers Satan, removes the curse, restores creation, and reigns forever.

For believers, these bookends are anchors of faith. We stand between promise and fulfillment, but the outcome is certain: the serpent's defeat, the curse removed, the tree of life restored, and Christ enthroned.