

“It / he / she will crush your head” Genesis 3:15

| Text | Translation | Interpretation | Meaning |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1)Hebrew | it will crush your head | literal | Eve’s offspring |
| 2)Greek LXX | he will crush your head | Christological | Jesus is the New Adam |
| 3)Latin Vulgate | she will crush your head | Mariological | Mary is the New Eve |

1) The Hebrew text of Genesis 3:15 is **it will crush your head**. God is telling the serpent that Eve’s offspring will bruise/crush its head. This is the struggle between humankind and evil in which we will be finally victorious over evil. Our Bibles and our Mass texts are translations of the Hebrew text.

2) The Greek translation (LXX) is he will crush your head This was interpreted in a messianic sense, i.e., predicting the Messiah, by many Latin fathers of the Church.

Paul in Romans 5:12-21 develops this Christological reading of Genesis 3 in conjunction with the doctrine of [original sin](#). Romans 5:19 states, “Just as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience are many to be made upright.” First Corinthians 15:21-22 is similar. The first sin was committed in the Garden of Eden, and this was rectified by Jesus, the New Adam, in another garden, Gethsemane, who also was tempted in the garden— “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.” (Matthew 26:39) The sin of disobedience in the first garden was rectified by the obedience of Jesus in the second garden. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §[412](#) states that what Jesus won for us was greater than what Adam lost for us. Reading Genesis 3 from a Christological perspective, we see Jesus as the New Adam who atoned for the first Adam. The *Exsultet* (Easter Proclamation) which is proclaimed just after the lighting of the candles on Holy Saturday night says:

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

3) The Latin translation is she will crush your head where “she” refers to Our Lady. This reflects the tradition in the Church since the early centuries to read Genesis 3:15 Mariologically regarding Mary as the New Eve just as Jesus is regarded as the New Adam. That is the reason why this excerpt of Genesis is chosen as our First Reading on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The struggle between Mary and the devil is what Genesis 3:15 is alluding to, according to the Mariological understanding—see Catechism §[411](#).

Genesis 3:15 hints at ultimate victory. Since this verse is the first announcement in the Bible of our salvation by Jesus it is referred to as the Protoevangelium, meaning the “first Gospel”, the first glimmer of salvation.