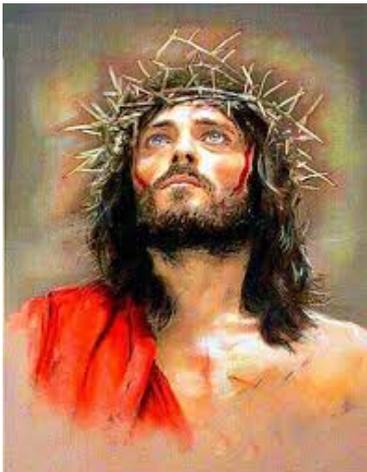


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## The Rejection of King Messiah



This was **Satan's** hour. Our **Savior** said to those who came to arrest **Him** in the Garden: **This is your hour, and the power of darkness (Luke 22:53 KJV)**. On the day when sin entered the world, **ADONAI** announced that **He** would **put enmity**, or hatred, **between Satan and the woman, between the Adversary's seed and her Seed. The Destroyer of souls will strike the heel of Messiah** at the cross (**Isaiah 53:5**). Now being bitten on **the heel** is very painful, but not fatal. The figurative language here is based upon the way **snakes** are killed in the Middle East. You step on its **head** and **crush** it. The picture being conveyed here is that **the heel of the Messiah** is coming down on **the tempter's head**. But **the Serpent**, controlled by **Satan**, lunges upward and bites **the heel of the Lord**, causing pain, but not *permanent* loss of life. Meanwhile, the **heel** continues to come down crushing **the head of the deceiver**. The great promise in this verse has long been known as the *protevangelium*, or *the first gospel*, promising the ultimate coming and victory of **the Lord Jesus Christ**.

That **enmity** was unmistakable when **the Holy One** was born in the flesh, for we are told: **The dragon stood in front of the woman (Isra'el) who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child, the Messiah, the moment it was born (Revelation 12:4b)**. This attempt to **devour Christ** was seen in the slaughter of babes of Bethlehem (**Matthew 2:16-18**). **The Adversary's** attempt

to destroy **Christ** both before **His** proper time (the Passover), and by the wrong means (stoning in place of crucifixion) continued throughout the course of **His** life.<sup>1495</sup> **Satan** failed, however, because **she gave birth to a son (Isaiah 66:7), a male child who** was destined to **rule all the nations** of the world **with an iron scepter** as **ADONAI (Psalm 2:8-9)**. **And her child was snatched up**, or ascended **up to the LORD and to His throne (Revelation 12:5)**, where **He** presently sits **at the right hand of God the Father** interceding for **His** holy ones (**Romans 8:34**).

This spiritual battle of the ages was foreordained. **Jesus is the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8 ESV)**. So **His** rejection was all a part of **God's** plan. Up to this point **ADONAI** had foiled **Satan's** scheming (**to see link click [Aw - Herod Gave Orders to Kill all the Boys in Bethlehem Two Years Old and Under](#)**). But now **the Father** hindered it no more. The hour had arrived when **the Serpent** would **strike the Savior's heel**.

Perhaps nowhere in Scripture is there a more vivid demonstration of the sovereignty of **God** than **Pontius Pilate's** treatment of **Christ** at **the Praetorium** that day. **First, Pilate** proclaimed **His** innocence no less than seven times (**John 18:31a; Luke 23:4, 23:14 and 15; John 19:4; Luke 23:22 and John 19:6**).

**Second, Pilate** wanted to release **Jesus (Luke 23:20); I will let Him go (Luke 23:22); Pilate** tried to set **Jesus free (John 19:12); Pilate** had decided to let **Him go (Acts 3:13)**, all prove **God's** sovereignty in the matter.

**Third, Pilate** was urged by **his** own **wife not** to sentence **Him (Matthew 27:19)**.

**Fourth, he** actually tried to bring about **Messiah's** acquittal when **he** told the Jews: **Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law (John 18:31)**. He sent **Him to Herod** Antipas, only to have **Christ** returned to **him (Luke 23:7)**; and **he** tried to persuade the Jews to have **him** convict Barabbas instead of **Yeshua (John 18:39-40)**. Yet, in spite of all of this, **Pilate** ultimately sentenced **the Lamb of God** to be crucified!<sup>1496</sup>

From the moment **the Anointed One** was born . . . **the great dragon** wanted to kill **Him**. And at the cross, **the evil one's** plans were seemingly accomplished. But as Joseph said to his brothers: **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives**



**(Gen 50:20).**