

What is the protoevangelium or 1st gospel?

The protoevangelium literally means “First Gospel” or “First Good News”. The idea stems from identifying the first time that the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and His good news is presented.

1. Where does the protoevangelium definition come from?
Genesis **3:14-15, 21**

The first presentation of the good news to come is found in the promise made to Adam, Eve and the Serpent that the seed of woman would deliver a great blow to the seed of the serpent. Included in the promised blow to the serpent is the gift of God in covering up the sinful state of Adam and Eve.

2. Why is this considered to be good news?
 Genesis **3:9-24** Romans **5:10-16**
 2 Corinthians **5:17-21**

By looking at the fuller context of the first good news, it can be noted that Adam and Eve have sinned against God. Since God is holy and righteous, He must judge their sin. His judgment includes the requirement of hard work in order to eat and hard labor for Eve. In the midst of God's judgment for sin, He offers the hope of reconciliation with God through the seed of the woman. This person who provides reconciliation with God is the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. What is meant by the bruising of the heel of the seed of the woman?
 Luke **1:34-35** Galatians **4:4-5**
 Acts **2:22-24**

The reference to being of the seed of the woman subtly indicates that it is not of the seed of the man. This is a cloaked reference to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. The word translated “bruise” literally means to crush. This then indicates that the serpent will be responsible for dealing a strong debilitating blow to the seed of the woman. It is ultimately not a deadly blow. This is a veiled reference to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in which Jesus Christ is killed by the forces of Satan but since Jesus comes back from the dead, the blow from the serpent is not completely deadly.

4. What is meant by the bruising of the head of the seed of the serpent?
Romans **1:1-4** 1 Corinthians **15:21-22, 54-57**
Hebrews **2:14-15** Romans **4:22-25**

The word translated “bruise” literally means to crush. This indicates that the blow that the seed of the woman will deliver to the serpent is a completely fatal blow. The seed of the woman will destroy the seed of the serpent so that there is now way to recover. Since the seed of the serpent, Satan, is destroyed that means the one having power of death is destroyed and that even death itself is destroyed. This power to survive death now belongs to all who believe in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.