



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

c. *The Promise of the Messiah's Coming*

Immediately after their fall, God announces to Adam and Eve his promise of salvation. Inasmuch as the human race was deceived by the tempter by trusting in him, God sets enmity, a struggle between them, to safeguard humanity from total subordination to evil: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers" (*Gn 3:15*). In this struggle, God promises humanity the ultimate victory: "He [i.e., the offspring of the woman] will strike your [i.e., the serpent's] head" (*Gn 3:15*). In the contest between good and evil, in the end, good will overcome, as personified as the offspring of the woman. The assurance of this victory emerges not from human efforts, but from the very Word of God, given in the promise. This first proclamation of the Good News about the salvation of the human race is what the Church calls the Protoevangelium. (#160)