

As the Serpent Coiled Up in Venomous Hate

A litany for Passion Week by Rick McKinney, 2020, rev. 2026

At the dawn of time the contenders of pride were cast down from heaven with the shining one, who had sought to ascend to the Most High, yet became as the serpent coiled up in hate.

Down through the ages the prince of demons waited to get back at God through God's image and likeness and so to harm, with cunning spite and venomous bite, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

You shall be as gods, the deceiver told the man and woman, take the bite, taste its sweetness, behold its beauty, and know good and evil for yourselves, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

The devil's deathly triumph was man's fall, but despite it all, in the woman's offspring a promise was made to crush the dragon's head, and so undue the pall, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

To Abraham, despite his age, a promise in faith was given for a son, and through that son, even in sacrifice, his own offspring would inherit the land of promise, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

Through faith Moses, despite the hardened hearts of both Pharaoh and God's people, armies were vanquished, laws were given and mana was bestowed, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

Through Joshua the land of promise was conquered, but only in part as God's people departed from faith and wanted a king like the nations oppressing them, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

So God gave them an unfaithful king after their own hearts, but then anointed a king after His own heart, David, whose offspring would endure in love, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

In the fullness of time, the son of David was born of a woman, a virgin clothed with the sun and though he tried hard, the dragon could not devour her child, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

The beloved son grew to manhood, withstanding the tempter's wiles, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed, making disciples and teaching the poor in spirit, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

In the decisive battle the enemy closed in on his prize with betrayals, denials, scourges, insults, crucifixion and death, but he could not turn the just one aside, as the serpent coiled up in hate.

The fiendish beast was caught with bait he could not resist as the unblemished lamb of selfless sacrifice rose in a wave of triumph over sin, Satan and death, with a fangless serpent in its wake.