

## **As the Serpent Uncoiled in Hate**

A poem for Passion Week by Rick McKinney, © 2020

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 uncoiled 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 venom bite, as the serpent uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled in hate.

In the fullness 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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 uncoiled 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.