

The Racist Misuse of “Seed” Language: A Cautionary Survey

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Biblical Seed Imagery and Its True Meaning

From Genesis 3:15 onward, the biblical story unfolds through the imagery of “seed.” The “seed of the woman” and the “seed of the serpent” establish the framework of redemptive history, pointing to the conflict between God’s people and the powers of evil, ultimately culminating in the Messiah. The biblical writers consistently use “seed” in theological, covenantal, and ultimately Christological ways—not as a racial or ethnic marker to divide humanity, but as a spiritual category centered on allegiance to God or rebellion against Him.

Unfortunately, throughout history, certain groups have twisted this profound biblical motif into a weapon of division and hatred. What Scripture meant to highlight God’s plan of redemption, some have perverted into an ideology of racial superiority.

British Israelism and the Seeds of Distortion

In the nineteenth century, British Israelism emerged, claiming that the Anglo-Saxon peoples were the true descendants of the “lost tribes” of Israel. This teaching built an elaborate narrative of national and racial destiny, portraying the British Empire as the vehicle of God’s covenant promises. Though seemingly benign at first, its theology laid groundwork for more dangerous distortions. By equating racial lineage with divine election, it reduced biblical “seed” language to matters of blood and ethnicity, in contradiction to Paul’s insistence that “if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:29).

The Christian Identity Movement

Out of British Israelism grew the even more toxic Christian Identity movement in the twentieth century. Christian Identity leaders taught that white Europeans were the true chosen people of God, while Jews were descendants of Satan through a so-called “serpent seed.” This heresy, sometimes linked to earlier Gnostic reinterpretations of Genesis 3, fueled antisemitic hatred and racial violence in the United States. Christian Identity adherents played a role in white supremacist terror groups, framing their violence as a “holy war” against the supposed offspring of Satan.



Created in the image of God

William Branham and the “Serpent Seed” Doctrine

William Branham, a mid-twentieth century false prophet and preacher revered in “The Message” movement, popularized the “serpent seed” teaching. He claimed that Eve’s sin in the garden was a sexual act with the serpent, producing a corrupt bloodline that continues to this day. This idea, long present in fringe circles, took on new life through Branham’s influence.

Branham himself was connected to figures with disturbing ties. He travelled with and preached alongside Roy E. Davis, who was not only Branham’s early mentor but also a leading figure in reviving the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. Such associations reveal the dangerous overlap between theological error and organized racial hatred.

The YouTube channel and website *Leaving the Message* documents how Branham’s teachings, including the serpent seed doctrine, continue to sow division and foster cult-like patterns. What appears as a peculiar teaching about Genesis has, in practice, become a foundation for dehumanization.

Nephilim DNA and Modern Conspiracies

Even beyond explicitly racist ideologies, distorted readings of “seed” language persist today in new forms. Some claim that certain people carry “Nephilim DNA,” portraying them as less than fully human. This merges fringe biblical interpretation with pseudoscience and conspiracy theories. While often presented in sensationalist end-times rhetoric rather than explicitly racist terms, the underlying pattern is the same: divide humanity into “true humans” and “corrupted humans,” thereby justifying suspicion, exclusion, or even violence.

The Dangers of Dehumanization

History repeatedly demonstrates the peril of such ideas. Once a group of people is labeled as sub-human, as “offspring of the serpent,” or as carriers of “corrupt DNA,” atrocities often follow. The Nazi regime dehumanized Jews by casting them as vermin; the Rwandan genocide justified the slaughter of Tutsis by labeling them “cockroaches.” Within so-called Christian circles, the serpent seed doctrine and its descendants represent the same dangerous logic.

The theological tragedy is profound. Scripture teaches that all humanity bears the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and that redemption in Christ is open to every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 5:9). To deny the humanity or dignity of any people is to deny the heart of the gospel itself.

A Call for Discernment and Warning

Believers must therefore exercise discernment. When we hear teachings that appeal to “seed” language in ways that divide humanity by race, lineage, or supposed DNA corruption, we should immediately recognize the distortion. Such teachings are not only exegetically unfounded but morally and spiritually dangerous.

The true “seed of the woman” is Christ, and those who are united to Him by faith share in His victory. The “seed of the serpent” is not a race or a bloodline, but the collective rebellion of all who oppose God’s Messiah. To confuse this is to exchange the gospel for a lie.

Conclusion

The misuse of “seed” language in Scripture has a long and tragic history—from British Israelism to Christian Identity, from Branham’s serpent seed doctrine to modern Nephilim DNA speculations. All share a common thread: they dehumanize others and distort the gospel. Christians must reject these errors and cling to the biblical truth that God’s promises are fulfilled in Christ, not in bloodlines, race, or conspiracy.

Once people are stripped of their humanity, the consequences are often horrific. That is why the church must sound a clear warning: the misuse of “seed” language is not just a theological mistake—it is a dangerous path that can lead to hatred, violence, and destruction.