

ADDENDUM

DARKNESS

Introduction

In the Greek there are four nouns used for the English word, three of which are from the same basic root word, and there are two verbs which are also closely related. Because of this word usage, CONTEXT is imperative to determine an accurate understanding of the usage of this particular word.

There are many times when an accurate definition of a word will clarify the context but with the word “darkness” the context is a major factor in helping to clarify the usage and meaning of the word.

In the Heavenly Realm

1. The rejection of God's light, God and His Laws = darkness
 - a. Review Isa. 14:12–14 & Rev. 12:9 – Rebellion
 - b. Gen. 1:2: *The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*
 - c. Jude 13: *wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.* (This is the destiny of sinful angels)
2. Evil powers:
 - a. Luke 22:53: *"While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."*
3. Clouds that surround God:
 - a. Ps. 97:2: *Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.*

In Our Physical Realm

1. Darkness in the physical realm:
 - a. Gen. 1:16–19 *God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also.¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,¹⁸ and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.*
2. Spiritual Darkness in the Physical realm
 - a. *This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He*

- Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5–7)*
- b. Rejection of God's laws of obedience in our lives produce a lack of fellowship, resulting in improper logic, improper human relations, improper goals, and improper activity
 - i. Ps 82:5: *They do not know nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness . . .* (Logic and activity)
 - ii. Prov. 2:13; *From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; (Activity)*
 - iii. 1 John 2:11: *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (Their reasoning is darkened, confused and improper, therefore their actions are wrong.)*
 - iv. Job 5:14: *By day they meet with darkness, And grope at noon as in the night. (Again: reasoning is darkened, confused and improper.)*
3. Darkness = Hidden things:
- a. Isa. 45:3 (NASB): *"I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.*
 - b. Isa. 45:3 (ESV): *I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.*
 - c. Isa. 45:3 (NET): *I will give you hidden treasures, riches stashed away in secret places, so you may recognize that I am the LORD, the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel.*
4. Darkness = Lack of Mental ability and Human Ignorance
- a. Understanding, Eph. 4:18: *being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;*
 - b. Mysterious knowledge, Num. 12:8: *With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?*
5. Darkness = Trouble & Affliction:
- a. Isa. 45:7 *The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.*
6. Darkness = Punishment:

- a. Eze. 32:8: *"All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you And will set darkness on your land," Declares the Lord God.*
- b. 2 Pet. 2:17: *These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.*
- 7. Darkness = Death:
 - a. Job 10:21 *Before I go-- and I shall not return-- To the land of darkness and deep shadow,*
 - b. Rabbit trail: This is an accurate report of what Job said, it does not make it true.
- 8. Darkness = Nothingness:
 - a. Job 3:4–6: *"May that day be darkness; Let not God above care for it, Nor light shine on it. ⁵ "Let darkness and black gloom claim it; Let a cloud settle on it; Let the blackness of the day terrify it. ⁶ "As for that night, let darkness seize it; Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; Let it not come into the number of the months.*
- 9. Miraculous darkness in the physical realm:
 - a. Exod. 10:21–22 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt."*
 - b. Mat. 27:45: *Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.*
- 10. Correlative to the spiritual realm
 - a. Because there is light and darkness in the heavens, the spiritual realm, God has given us a physical, earthly model of that day and night.
 - b. Heavenly day:
 - i. Starts with the rebellious presenting and objection, or challenge, to God's laws or character; then God answers and proves them wrong. This heavenly/spiritual day can cover much earthly time. E.G. Job's trial.
 - ii. Appears that multiple heavenly days can run concurrently
 - c. God ALWAYS has the last word in every day and every situation.

MORNING STAR

Isa. 14:12: some apply this passage, by means of duality, to Satan. Through similar vernacular it can also be associated with others. Using duality it can shed more light on Satan's original, exalted position, see 2 Peter 1:19; Rev. 2:24–29; 22:16.

Isa. 14:12: *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!*

1. Only King of Babylon?
2. King of Babylon & Satan?

2 Pet. 1:19: *So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.*

1. A state of being and or the mature unity with Christ?

Rev. 2:24–29: *'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them-- I place no other burden on you.²⁵ 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.²⁶ 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;²⁷ AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.²⁹ 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

1. Here the reward seems to be a person, an object, or a position.

Rev. 22:16: *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."*

1. Rev. 22:16: Jesus clearly reveals that He is the morning star.

CONCLUSION

1. All of these verses might tell us something about Satan's pre-rebellion state, our future possibilities, and God's plan concerning His new rulership throughout eternity future.
2. The picture can be of a completely new structure of rulership or, more than likely, humans achieving to positions vacated by rebellious angels. The example of the Roman arch of victory?
3. **The "Morning Star" could be a title bestowed upon one who reveals, or announces, the coming light.**

THE HEAVENLY COURT SYSTEM

There is too much information and too little time, in this series, to construct a complete picture of the heavenly court system. At this time the only point being presented here is the fact that there is a heavenly court system and it includes an appellate court. Consider the additional verses below:

The Court

Job 1:6: *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*

Dan. 7:9–10: *"I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.¹⁰ "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.*

Rev. 12:10: *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.*

1 Cor. 6:2: *Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?*

The Appellate Court

Rev. 20:11–15: *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

See also; Matthew 5:22; Job 1:6; 2:1; Daniel 7:9–10; Revelation 12:10; 1 Corinthians 6:2.

ISAIAH 14:12–14

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”
(Isa. 14:12–14)

Theologians are divided on this verse. Some say this is only a direct reference to the king of Babylon, others think it is only a direct reference to Satan, while others think it is applicable to both. The one thing that they all seem to agree upon is that this is not a reference to the activity of the LORD God. Since all actions in the Bible have only two sources, and these two sources are never mixed, as sources, we must say that the activities of these verses fall squarely into Satan's camp, not God's camp. They are evil actions. It is the position of Things above Ministries that this passage while speaking about the king of Babylon, also illuminates Satan and his activities toward God. For a well-balanced and detailed examination of this passage see, C. Fred Dickason's book "Angels Elect & Evil," pages 129–134 (Moody Press).

The five "I wills" are consistent actions of Satan through the entire Bible. The first four have a direct relation to the position of authority while the fifth identifies the one whom Satan is attacking God. It also lets us know that Satan either wants God's character or to replace God's character. Satan truly thought, and probably still thinks, he can become a better god than God.

SALVATION

Salvation, as applied to humans, is different than the reconciliation of all creation as found in Colossians 1:19–20. To accurately understand “salvation” as used in this series. Some popular ideas about salvation are presented, follow with some biblical information on salvation. It is the biblical understanding of salvation which is used in this series.

SOME POPULAR IDEAS OF SALVATION.

These ideas include: church membership, a system of religious activities which makes you fit for heaven, all the good works which one does daily which will eventually qualify you for heaven, and which identify you as already being approved for heaven. All of these are human based on good works which either *earn you entrance into heaven or maintain you a position in heaven.*

THE BIBLICAL INFORMATION ON SALVATION.

God, and God alone, presently offers salvation into His heaven to humans which is not based on humans earning their salvation. His salvation is based only on, the sacrificial death of Christ. His death met all the legal requirements of God's heavenly laws which demands, and produce, death for any and all rebellion against God's laws (sin). Christ was God's sinless Son, but died in order to meet God's requirement of death for sin. He fulfilled God's legal requirement of death. This fulfillment of the legal requirement can be attributed to (transferred to, or imputed to) humans. Those humans which will be saved are the ones who:

1. realize and acknowledge (admit) that they have sinned against God (broken His laws),
2. accept His Son's death as the sacrificial fulfillment of the penalty of eternal death for their sins,
3. then dedicate their earthly lives to serve Jesus Christ.

The ones who are saved will also have an intimate, and active, personal relationship with The God—The Creator of all things. This intimate relationship is established at the time of salvation.

Some Bible verses:

They said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved . . . (Acts 16:31)

if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; (Rom. 10:9)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies," (Jn. 11:25)

but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (Jn. 20:31)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (Jn. 14:6)

The examination of Ephesians 2:1, 8–10 tells us that:

Before salvation we are dead in our trespasses and sins, but by God's grace we are saved through faith; and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God. In other words: salvation is not a result of any, or all of, the good works we produce. (We cannot even boast about being saved because it is God who saves based on the sacrificial death of His Son.) However, after salvation we can then produce godly good works, not humanly good works (see verse below)!

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, . . .

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of (humanly good) works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good (Godly) works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Eph. 2:1, 8-10)

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy . . . (Titus 3:5)

GENESIS 3:15

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of the English translations of the Bible there has been variations in understanding on how to translate Genesis 3:15. One struggle is how to translate the 3rd class singular pronouns. (Remember, a 3rd class pronoun can be referred to, and be translated as , “he,” “she,” or “it”.) To understand this struggle note the bolded words in the translations below. Also, the dates of the translations are important because they reveal the thinking/doctrine of the translator at that period of time. It should also remind us of the amount and quality of the manuscripts available to them at that time.

1599, the Geneva Bible:

I will also put enimitie betweene thee and the woman, and betweene thy seede and her seede. **He** shall breake thine head, and **thou** shalt bruise his heele.

1611, the King James Bible:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it** shall bruise thy head, and **thou** shalt bruise his heel.

1844, the LXE (An English translation of the Septuagint Version of the Old Testament)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, **he** shall watch against thy head, and **thou** shalt watch against his heel.

1899, the Douay-Rheims

I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: **she** shall crush thy head, and **thou** shalt lie in wait for her heel.

*1917, the JPS Holy Scriptures (The Holy Scriptures [Old Testament] originally published by the Jewish Publication Society)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **they** shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise **their** heel.

*1985, the TNK (The TANAKH, a new translation (into contemporary English) of The Holy Scriptures according to the traditional Hebrew (Masoretic) text.

I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your offspring and hers; **They** shall strike at your head, And you shall strike at **their** heel.

*1985, the New Jerusalem Bible

I shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **it** will bruise your head and you will strike **its** heel.

*1995, RWB (Revised Webster Bible of 1833)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it** shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise **his** heel.

1995, NASV (New American Standard Version)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; **He** shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise **him** on the heel." (Gen. 3:15 NAU)

*1996–2006, NET (New English Translation)

And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; **her offspring** will attack your head, and you will attack **her offspring's** heel.

2011, NIV (New International Version)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he** will crush your head, and you will strike **his** heel.

*2011, CEB (Common English Bible)

I will put contempt between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. **They** will strike your head, but you will strike at **their** heels.

The struggle of understanding and identifying the woman's offspring as "it, he, He, she, they, or her offspring", in Gen. 3:15, is revealed by the variations in the above translation. This problem is also impacted by, but not based solely on, taking into consideration an ever-changing English language. A primary struggle of the biblical translators is the filtering of their work through their own doctrinal stance and the source texts they had at their disposal.

For further enlightenment here are two Jewish works translated into English:

1862, the OKE (An English translation of the Pentateuch)

And I will put enmity between thee and between the woman, and between **thy son** and **her son**. He will remember thee, what thou didst to him (at) from the beginning, and thou shalt be observant unto him at the end.

1862–1865, the PJE (An English translation of the Pentateuch; Apparently an amplified work.)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between the seed of thy son, and the seed of her sons; and it shall be when the sons of the woman keep the commandments of the law, they will be prepared to smite thee upon thy head; but when they forsake the commandments of the law, thou wilt be ready to wound them in their heel. Nevertheless for them there shall be a medicine, but for thee there will be no medicine; and they shall make a remedy for the heel in the days of the King Meshiha.

THE RESEARCH

THE FORMAT

First, we will identify the five phrases.

Next, a word study to make sure we understand the meaning of the individual words.

Then, we will reassemble the verse.

Lastly, we will survey the biblical text.

List our conclusions

The Five Phrases

And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her seed;

He shall bruise you on the head,

And you shall bruise him on the heel.

(Gen. 3:15 NASV)

Word Study

Phrase #1

And I will put enmity

I will put

“P”

1. First person singular pronoun
2. Pronouns are used in place of nouns
3. Refer back to previous verse to find the noun – it is “*the LORD God*”
4. It is straight forward; it is the LORD God speaking

“*enmity*”

1. Enmity simply means *hostility* (see Brown, Driver, Briggs – “BDB”)
2. Hostility is now brought into existence

Phrase #2

Between you and the woman,

“*you and the woman*”

1. You is a 2nd person masculine singular pronoun
2. Looking backward the “you” has to refer to the serpent/Satan (see Rev. 12:9 for the identity of the serpent)
3. Every “you” in this verse is a 2nd person masculine singular pronoun and therefore refers to the serpent/Satan

4. Expanded translation: ***I, the LORD God, will put hostility between you, Satan, and the woman, . . .***

Phrase #3

“*And between your seed and her seed:*”

“*seed*”

1. עֶרְוָה: Hebrew Seed = offspring
 - a. Rarely of animals, coll. Gn 3:15, 7:3 (both J). (BDB)
 - b. Usu. B. Of mankind, coll. = *descendants, posterity; seed of the woman* (BDB)
2. The word itself carries the idea of many. (Holladay)
 - a. Even when used in singular form certain words can carry the idea of many e.g. the multitude, a pair of shoes, flock, herd, the group, a family, orchestra, department, and seed. (I have a 50 lb. bag of grass seed in the car. Does this create a mental picture of a single 50 lb. seed of grass in a bag?)
 - b. Does the Hebrew word always refer to a single seed or entity ? (285 times in 245 verses)
Gen. 1:11–12, 29; 3:15; 4:25; 7:3; 8:22; 9:9; 12:7; 13:15–16; 15:3, 5, 13, 18; 16:10; 17:7–10, 12, 19; 19:32, 34; 21:12–13; 22:17–18; 24:7, 60; 26:3–4, 12, 24; 28:4, 13–14; 32:13; 35:12; 38:8–9; 46:6–7; 47:19, 23–24; 48:4, 11, 19; **Exod.** 16:31; 23:10, 16; 28:43; 30:21; 32:13; 33:1; Lev. 11:37–38; 12:2; 15:16–18, 32; 18:20–21; 19:19–20; 20:2–4; 21:15, 17, 21; 22:3–4, 13; 25:3–4, 11, 20, 22; 26:5, 16; 27:16, 30; **Num.** 5:13, 28; 11:7; 14:24; 17:5; 18:19; 20:5; 24:7; 25:13; **Deut.** 1:8; 4:37; 10:15; 11:9–10; 14:22; 21:4; 22:9; 28:38, 46, 59; 29:22; 30:6, 19; 31:21; 34:4; **Jos.** 24:3; **Jdg.** 6:3; **Jdg.** 9:45; **Ruth** 4:12; **1 Sam.** 1:11; 2:20; 8:15; 20:42; 24:22; **2 Sam.** 4:8; 7:12; 22:51; **1 Ki.** 2:33; 11:14, 39; 18:32; **2 Ki.** 5:27; 11:1; 17:20; 19:29; 25:25; **1 Chr.** 16:13; 17:11; 20:7; 22:10; **Ezr.** 2:59; 9:2; **Neh.** 7:61; 9:2, 8; **Est.** 6:13; 9:27–28, 31; 10:3; **Job** 4:8; 5:25; 21:8; 31:8; 39:12; **Psa.** 18:51; 21:11; 22:24, 31; 25:13; 37:25–26, 28; 69:37; 89:5, 30, 37; 97:11; 102:29; 105:6; 106:27; 107:37; 112:2; 126:5–6; **Prov.** 11:18, 21; 22:8; **Eccl.** 11:4, 6; **Isa.** 1:4; 5:10; Isa. 6:13; 14:20; 17:10–11; 23:3; 28:24; 30:23; 32:20; 37:30; 40:24; 41:8; 43:5; 44:3; 45:19, 25; 48:19; 53:10; 54:3; 55:10; 57:3–4; 59:21; 61:9; 65:9, 23; 66:22; **Jer.** 2:2, 21; 4:3; 7:15; 12:13; 22:28, 30; 23:8; 29:32; 30:10; 31:27, 36–37; 33:22, 26; 35:7, 9; 36:31; 41:1; 46:27; 49:10; 50:16; **Ezek.** 17:5, 13; 20:5; 36:9; 43:19; 44:22; **Dan.** 1:3; 9:1; **Hos.** 2:25; 8:7; 10:12; **Amos** 9:13; **Mic.** 6:15; **Nah.** 1:14; **Hag.** 1:6; 2:19; **Zech.** 8:12; 10:9; **Mal.** 2:3, 15. (Note: This Hebrew word for “seed” does not appear in: Lev., 2 Chron., Eccl., Song of Sol., Lam., Oba., Jon., Hab., Zep.)
 - c. Gen. 4:25, is used in the singular and refers to a specific child
 - d. Gen. 12:7, it is used in the singular but refers to a collective, a plural progeny

- e. All verses used in close proximity to Genesis 3:15 carry the idea of multiples: see Gen. 1:11–12, 29; 4:25; 7:3; 8:22; 9:9; 12:7; 13:15;
 - f. The singular usage of “seed” is only understood and applied to Genesis 22:18 because of Galatians 3:16, the further revelation from God—progressive revelation.
 - g. Gal. 3:16 enlightens us to the single usage in Gen. 22:18 but then compare Gen. 22:17 with Gen. 22:18; in both verses “seed” is written in singular form but is to be understood first in multiple and then in the singular!
 - h. Therefore the rule appears to be: Whether a singular or multiple understanding of “seed” is to be grasped can only be determined by its context or of the further revelation from God elsewhere in Scripture. (We always use Scripture to understand Scripture.)
- 3. Greek “σπέρμα” (sperma) The Greek usage in the LXX closely follows the Hebrew usage. A simple Greek definition: “of human or animal semen; be metonymy (*used in place of another word*) as human descendants’ *offspring, posterity, children.*” (Friberg)
 - 4. **Therefore, the seed would be - all the offspring of the woman - and all the offspring of Satan** (see 1 John 3:8 to identify the offspring of Satan.)
 - 5. But here, if you make all the seed singular then God is only placing hostility between one of the woman’s offspring and one of Satan’s offspring. Therefore, there is not hostility between Satan and humanity!
 - 6. Clarified translation: ***“I, the LORD God, will put hostility between you, Satan, and the woman, And between all your seed, Satan, and her seed, all the humanity:”***

Phrase # 4

He shall bruise you on the head,

He shall bruise you. . .

“He”

- 1. 3rd person, masculine, singular, pronoun
 - a. This particular “he” can be, and has been, translated as “it, he, He, they, and “her offspring”
 - b. Remember pronouns always refer back to a noun already in place but sometimes it is necessary to use some simple observation: e.g., “John went to buy a cookie but -he- forgot the money.” Does “he” refer to the cookie or to John? Context and logic would point to John.
 - c. The only masculine nouns already given is “seed” or the serpent!
- 2. Closest noun is *“her seed, all humanity”*

3. This “*He*”, found in the New American Bible Version, could be more accurately translated as “*they*” or “*her offspring*.” This is exactly how the New English Translation of the Bible translates it, “*and her offspring will attack*”

“*bruise*”

1. This Hebrew word is only used 4 times in 3 verses of the OT (Gen. 3:15; Job 9:17; Psa. 139:11)
2. Its exact biblical meaning is somewhat obscure but in 3 of the 4 usages it projects a picture of **frightful finality**.
3. This is some type of frightful ending

“*you*”

1. We have already seen that “*you*” refers to Satan.

“*head*”

1. Used literally refers to the actual head of a being
2. Used figuratively, either in the Hebrew or Greek, **it always refers to rule or rulership**.
3. Satan’s rulership will be brought a frightful ending
4. See 2 Cor. 4:4 for one specific area of Satan’s rulership

Phrase #5

And you shall bruise him on the heel.

“*you shall bruise him*”

1. We have established that “*you*” is Satan and once again the “*him*”, from the New American Standard Version, is actually the woman’s seed.
2. Therefore, an accurate translation could actually read “*you Satan, shall bruise them on the heel.*”

“*bruise*”

1. The same word for the previous “*bruise*”
2. But not at the same location!

“*heel*”

1. BDB *footprint, fig. trace, mark, also end, extremity; attack from behind*
2. “*Trace, Mark or End*” = The idea of a *resulting state of being from a primary action* (Clarification by ScVerlin Barton)

3. Location dictates an ending less severe than a “bruise” to the head.
4. Therefore, it appears that humanity will suffer some type of damage
***possibly the simple active of stumbling at living a consistent godly life.**
(*”Possibly” is my thinking not a translation of the text.)

Verse Reassembled

Now that we are swimming in a pool of definition overload let's reassemble the verse, based on those definitions, and see if the verse is any clearer:

And I, the LORD God, will put hostility Between you, Satan, and the woman, And between your offspring, Satan, and her offspring; Her offspring shall render a fatale blow to your rulership Satan, And you, Satan, will attack her offspring and cause them to stumble.

Observations

1. This verse presents a picture of hostility, conflict, constant struggle, defeat, and adversity.
2. If this verse only points to Christ and not all of the woman's offspring, then the hostility is only between Satan, the woman, and Christ, thus:
 - a. There would be no hostility between Satan and humanity,
 - b. Satan and the humans would be at peace with each other,
 - c. There is no salvation for the humans and God's next act could very well be to fulfil the sentence of Gen. 2:16–17 and send the humans to hell.
3. However, if this verse is revealing that Satan and ALL humanity are involved in a conflict then:
 - a. God would keep the humans alive, and on this earth, to struggle and take part in the crushing of Satan's rulership.
 - b. The hostility between Satan and all humans would be revealed through all history.
 - c. Because the humans are involved in the destruction of Satan's rulership there should somehow be hope for the humans – to be revealed later by progressive revelation.
4. So what does the rest of the Bible say?

A SHORT SURVEY OF BIBLICAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Now it is important to survey the rest of the Bible and see what It has to say on this topic.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Hostility Between Satan & All Humans

1. Simply insert the entire Bible here - this hostility is seen from Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 20:15.
 - a. The four places in the OT where Satan is personally present: Genesis 3:1–15; Job chapters 1 & 2; 1 Chron. 21:1; Zech. 3:1–2.
 - i. In all 4 cases Satan makes a personal appearance against God's people.
 - ii. Satan tempts humans to sin against God and then points out their sin to God!
 - b. It could even be argued that Satan's hostility toward humanity is actually seen in 3:1–7 but it could also be said that Satan was a liar and a deceiver who was trying to obtain human followers for himself, and since God had not established the law of hostility there would not have been any hostility between them.
2. Satan is hostile toward humans, even to those who are not God's people; Satan misleads with false gods, harasses with demons, and promotes hostility between themselves.
3. This hostility is also seen between God's people and the people of the world—all humans: John 12:25; 15:18–19; 1 John 3:13.

Human Involvement in The Crushing of Satan

1. For this purpose, the Son of God was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn. 3:8 NET) (Christ became a *human* for this purpose.)
2. Presently Christ continues this crushing through His earthly spiritual body
 - a. ***Rom. 16:20*** (This single verse establishes the fact that the reference to the woman's seed is not a direct reference to Christ.)
 - b. 1 Pet. 5:8–9
 - c. Eph. 6:10–20
 - d. Eph. 3:10
3. See also: Acts 5:3; 26:18; 1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:14; 1 Thes. 2:18; **2 Thes. 2:9**; 1 Tim. 5:15; Rev. 12:9; 20:7–8.

The Present Situation

1. We are now in the spiritual phase I call Operation Footstool (O.F.) **Acts 2:34–35 to 1 Cor. 15:24.** (Revelation unpacks the 1 Cor. 15:24.)
 - a. O. F. involves all parties, God, His loyal angels, Satan, his rebellious angels, and all humanity.
 - b. Somehow the rebellious angelic powers and all their systems of rule are being destroyed - Acts 2:34–35 to 1 Cor. 15:24.
2. The focus of activity, or battlefield, of Operation Footstool, is on this earth.
 - a. As members of The Body of Christ we are to be active agents in this work - Rom. 16:20.
 - b. The *primary focus* of activity for those who have dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ, is to mature in His character Eph. 4:11–20.
3. Compare the order of events, and locations, between Col. 1:16 (heaven & earth) & Col. 1:19–20 (earth & heaven).

Eternal Victory

1. Only AFTER Satan's rulership is completely destroyed does God set in place His eternal victory - Rev. 20:9–21:1.
 - a. Satan's rulership is completely destroyed.
 - b. Satan does not co-rule with God!
 - c. This appears to be the point where time, as we know it, ends.
2. On the first day of eternity God's new rulership system will be put into place Rev. 22:1 & 22:5.
 - a. Those who have been successful Active Agents will be given positions of eternal rulership - 2 Tim. 2:12. (This is not a salvation issue but a rewards issue.)
 - b. God is now presenting us with the opportunity to develop as eternal rulers.
3. Therefore, it can be said that: **Presently we are in training for eternal reigning.**

CONCLUSION

In Genesis 3:15 Christ is not directly revealed. Christ is a *hidden point* that only comes to light through progressive revelation! The primary point of this verse is that it is the first revelation of God's plan to destroy Satan's rulership and use humans to do so. BUT there are two important points. First, even though Christ is not directly mentioned He is included in the "seed of the woman." Secondly, because Christ is included it does not mean that the rest of humanity is excluded.

Remember the Lord's commission that was given to Paul after our Lord's resurrection:

to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. (Acts 26:18)

And the reminder given to us:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)

*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, **firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. (1 Pet. 5:8–9)*

We have responsibilities in the crushing of Satan's rulership! Stand Firm in your Faith!

GOD'S PLAN OUR PLACE THROUGHOUT ALL TIME

This doctrine does not negate, interface with, or effect Covenant “theology” or Dispensationalism. It is, as Paul Harvey use to say “The rest of the story,” or as I like to say it is “the other side of the story.”

“For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

*UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR
YOUR FEET.”* (Acts 2:34–35, *emphasis added*)

The above verse reveals important information about the progression of God's plan. The words “*sit*” and “*until*” reveal three phases of God's Master Plan eternal rulership.

In Phase One Christ was not seated at the right hand of God. It was only after His death, restriction, and ascension, that God said “sit at My right hand.” Prior to this, Christ *was not seated* at God's right hand. In Phase One, Christ occupied a position in the godhead where He was not seated at God's right hand.

In Phase Two, Christ is seated at God's right hand. But this seating arrangement will only last *until* His enemies are made into a footstool. When “Operation Footstool” is accomplished, the word “*until*” dictates that there will be another change in the position Christ.

Phase Three is initiated after all rule and authority is handed over to God the Father. At that time Christ and God will share a single throne—Rev. 22:1.

God's Plan of Eternal Rulership does not progress, nor has it ever progressed, based solely on God's relationship with humans. God's eternal rulership is based on God's progressing victory over Satan and his rulership.

God's Big Picture Plan is only completed when God's enemies are made His footstool and God's rulership over all His creation is once again restored.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he has brought to an end all rule and all authority and power.

(1 Corinthians 15:24 NET)

Please see the following chart and its explanation of how God's eternal plan progresses through time.

God's Plan Our Place Through Time

(Colossians 1:19–20 & Acts 2:34–35)

Spiritual Activity	Phase 1 PROOF	Phase 2 RECONSTRUCTION	Phase 3 RECONCILIATION
Spiritual Purpose	Prove God Is Ruler (Deut. 32:8; Isa. 44:6–8; John 18:33–37)	Crushing Satan' Rule (1 Jo. 3:8; Rom.16:20)	Establish God's Eternal Rule (Rev. 21:1—22:5)
Location	Earth (Deut. 32:8–9; Isa. 44:6–8))	Earth (1Jo. 3:8; 2 Tim. 2:12)	All Creation (Rev. 21:1)
Earthly Time Period	First Day to Christ Seated (Gen. 1:3–5—Acts 2:33–34)	Christ Seated to The Final Judgement (Acts 2:33–34—Rev. 20:15–21:1)	All Eternity (Rev. 21:1–5)
Procedure	Disprove Satan's Rule (Isa. 14:13–14, 44:6–8)	Develop New Eternal Rulers (2Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21; 22:5)	Implement God's Rule (Rev. 21:1—22:5)
Human Position	Passive Agents (Gen. 3:8–24; Job 38–41; 1 Chron. 21:1–27; Zech. 3:1–7)	Active Agents (Rom. 16:20; Jam. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:18)	Reigning Agents (2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 22:5)
Human Responsibility	Simple Faith (Psalms 119:114, 37:5)	Biblical Faith (Matt. 4:3–10; 2 Tim. 3:16–17, 2:15)	Ruling Faith (Matt. 6:10; Rev. 19:7–8, 22:3–5)

In Phase 1 God provides *proof* to Satan that he cannot rule. In Phase 2 God begins the *reconstruction* of His future spiritual rulership. In Phase 3 God implements His new eternal rulership and completes the *reconciliation* of all creation back to His unchallenged eternal rulership.

Explanation of Chart

Phase 1

Spiritual Activity: *PROOF*

Spiritual Purpose: To present legal proof to Satan that God is the only one who can rule. This proof is primarily offered to Satan and the rebellious heavenly host of rulers by example. This example is set forth in God's perfect rulership over Israel (Deuteronomy 32:8; Isaiah 44:6–8).

Therefore, under the Old Testament we clearly see God's direct, and active, rulership over His subjects, Israel. There was a legal contract drawn up between King, God, and His subjects, Israel. This contract is called "The Law." It defined the responsibilities of the King and the responsibilities of the subjects.

As Satan and the rebellious angels looked on, God consistently fulfilled His responsibilities, whether Israel was obedient or rebellious.

Location: *The Earth*. The above spiritual proof was enacted upon this physical earth (Deuteronomy 32:8–9 NET; Isaiah 44:6–8).

Earthly Time Period: From the first day in Genesis until Christ was seated at God's right hand (Genesis 1:3–5; Acts 2:34–35). This means that the entire OT, and the ministry of Christ, was part of this phase of proof (John 18:33–37).

Procedure: Comparing Satan's attempts at rulership with God's perfect rulership. (Isaiah 14:13–14, 44:6–8).

Human Position: *Passive Agents*. "Primary Agents" is not a negative term; it simply denotes that the OT saints were not to take direct action against Satan and his forces. This was the King's responsibility, and as His subjects they were to pass this responsibility over to Him and wait for His direct interaction (Genesis 3:8–24; Job 38–41; 1 Chronicles 21:1–27; Zechariah 3:1–7).

Human Responsibility: To live by *simple faith*. The term *simple faith* is used because God gave Israel very clear and simple rules to live by, and often God even provided visual reinforcement – simple.

There was very little that God's rules did not cover. When any lack of coverage did happen, God would give the priest direct and clear answers. This made life very simple, but not necessarily easy, for Israel (Psalms 119:114, 37:5).

Phase 2

Spiritual Activity: *Reconstruction*

Spiritual Purpose: To begin the crushing of Satan's eternal rule by replacing Satan's rebellious rulers (1 John 3:8; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21; 22:5)

Location: Earth. This is where new eternal rulers are being developed (2 Timothy 2:12).

Earthly Time Period: From Christ being seated to the end of the Final Judgment. From the seating of Christ at the right hand of God to Satan's human followers being thrown into the lake of fire (From Acts 2:1 to Revelation 20:15).

The Procedure: Develop new, eternal, godly rulers. God now offers the opportunity for His chosen to grow in godly character by living a life of Biblical Faith. This growth prepares us for positions of eternal rulers. (2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:17).

Human Position: *Active Agents*. The chosen of God are given greater spiritual responsibilities than the previous Passive Agents. For the first time ever, we are commanded to personally resist Satan rather than calling on God to intervene (James 4:7–8; 1 Peter 5:9). This is an enormous shift in position and responsibilities; instead of waiting for God's direct intervention, we are to be personally responsible in the battle—we are now God's *active agents*.

Human Responsibility: *Biblical Faith*. The activity by which all our responsibilities are fulfilled is still a life of faith but now faith is no longer a simple faith. Faith is now a more personal, responsible faith. It is a faith not only based on the Written Word of God, but strengthened by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and enacted by one's personal, individual volition (2 Timothy 1:13–14). It is called Biblical Faith because all that God wants us to know, and do, in order to grow into responsible eternal rulers, has been written down in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16–17; cf Matthew 4:3–10; 2 Timothy 2:15; Rev. 22:5).

Phase 3

Spiritual Activity: *Reconciliation*

Spiritual Purpose: To establish God's eternal unchallenged rule. God has always been the supreme ruler, but Satan has been allowed to challenge God's system of rulership *at every point* and try to disprove God's rule and establish his own system of rule. When this challenge is defeated, God will once again be the supreme unchallenged ruler. At that time Satan will no longer be allowed to make up his own rules, Satan will be forced to obey God¹ (Revelation 21:1—22:5).

Location: All creation. The entire creation, heaven and earth will be made perfect and moved back under God's unchallenged rule (Revelation 21:1).

Earthly Time Period: All eternity. This time period extends from Christ moving from the right hand of God to being seated with God, on His throne, and extends throughout all eternity—forever (Revelation 21:1–5).

Procedure: To carry out God's rule by obeying His laws whether they are in heaven or hell (Revelation 21:1–22:5).

Human Position: *Reigning Agents.* God will place victorious humans in specific positions of eternal rulership (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 22:5). And yes, there are advanced positions of rulership (Zechariah 3:7; Matthew 20:23; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Revelation 5:10).

Human Responsibility: To live by an *eternal ruling faith*. This appears to be an advanced faith. It is not the simple faith of the Passive Agents of the Old Testament saints it is an extension of the Biblical Faith of the Active Agents of the New Testament saints. Eternal ruling faith appears to be faith that is so well developed that it knows the heart of God and can carry out His will without having to receive direct orders from Him (Matthew 6:10; Revelation 19:7–8).

¹An example of this forced obedience would be of an outlaw who is imprisoned and forced to obey the laws of the prison, not his own rebellious laws.

Consistency

While God's plan does progress through time, there are some consistencies that never change.

In the Old Testament, when God was proving to Satan that He and He alone can rule all creation, it was necessary for us to be His obedient subjects, living by a simple godly faith, and at times relying on His direct protection and intervention. Once God had offered all the proof to Satan He deemed necessary, He then began to develop His new eternal rulers. Because of this spiritual shift God gave us a new covenant and His relationship with us changed. God is now providing the opportunity for His chosen ones to develop as eternal rulers by living by godly faith. Those who develop godly character *to their full potential* will be used in eternal ruling positions, living by godly eternal faith.

The ultimate goal of God's eternal rulership is not temporary human pleasure and earthly peace and prosperity; it has always been the establishment of God's eternal unchallenged rulership.

The Consistencies Revealed

In both the Old Testament time period of "Proof" and the New Testament time period of "Reconstruction," there are three consistencies: 1) Core issues of eternal rulership, 2) Three basic elements of godly faith, and 3) Five activities of godly faith.

Core Issues of Eternal Rulership

Control – Who can control all creation: God or Satan?

(Isaiah 44:6–8; John 18:37–38; Revelation 22:5)

Obedience – We are to choose to whom we will be obedient.

(Exodus 20:3; Joshua 24:15)

Reconciliation – God's plan is a single plan of reconciliation.

(Genesis 3:15; Colossians 1:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:18)

Eternity – The goal of God's plan is His eternal rulership.

(Colossians 1:19–20; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Revelation 22:5)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After he dedicated his life to Christ, he began to have questions. Questions such as: “*Why* does God allow evil to happen?” “*Why* am I here?” “*What* is God’s will for my life?” “*How* do I find God’s will for my life?” In the late 1960s he heard a preacher speak about the ongoing conflict between God and Satan and how humanity was involved in that conflict. The sermon answered many of his questions. However, the preacher presented few biblical references in his sermon. Mr. Barton took this information, stored it in his mind, and library, and thought; “Someday I will acquire the literary skills to research the Bible on my own and determine the biblical accuracy, and validity, of his sermon.”

In his mid-forties Mr. Barton decided it was time to leave the business world and obtain the literary tools necessary to accurately examine the Bible. Through a seminary he was able to acquire enough linguistic study tools to launch his own research of the Bible. This allowed him to conduct an accurate study of the Bible and validate, or reject, this idea of

an ongoing conflict between God and Satan in which humans are presently involved.

Much to his surprise the biblical information on this conflict is revealed throughout the entire Bible! Sadly in the last 60 years a unified presentation of the Scriptures based on this subject has been largely ignored. Without this unified information Christianity can easily morph into humanism, IE, “It’s all about me. Christ came to simply provide what is best for -ME- and make this world a better place for all of the me(s) to live.” Because of this, Mr. Barton established Things Above Ministries as a vehicle to reintroduce this unified information back into Christianity.

In summary Mr. Barton has spent most of his Christian life questioning and researching the Bible and its information presented in this series. Presently, he lives in Portland, OR, conducting Zoom meetings, and in person Bible studies throughout the country when necessary. He can be contacted by email at scverlin@things-above.org