

Verse 15 is easily subdivided into four parts, and we will be looking at each in-turn, but with one alteration: We will consider them in *chronological order*, which—if we bypass the incremental events—reverses the order of the third and fourth part. For example, there are a number of steps along the way that are part of Satan being fatally crushed, beginning with his pre-Creation fall from heaven, but we will not be itemizing them here. Hence, chronologically, the third portion of the verse occurs fourth and last.

Before we do that, however, I would like to share an additional perspective on v15—one not mentioned in our last session—one expressed by Martin Luther, and perhaps easily missed by us today. To wit, the first man and woman, standing in the hot seat before a holy and incensed God, should have (and indeed *may* have) seen the verdict of v15 as *good news* for them.

Just think of this from their perspective: after their great offense against their Maker by listening to and giving into the serpent's temptation, they would rightly expect to henceforth be assigned to *his* camp. They had chosen the wrong side, and Yahweh God could have righteously responded with *You made your bed; now you can sleep in it. You have chosen the serpent to be your master and god—and from now on he will be. You are now one with him.* God's verdict for the man and woman will be harsh, but it will not be that. In fact, instead it will be an expression of His *grace*. In his verdict for Satan in v15, He signals that instead of being aligned with him, Adam and Eve and their seed will be *against* him—at "enmity" with him. That is *good news* for them—and us.

Read Genesis 3:14-15.

1. PERSONAL ENMITY

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,*

Because of part two, I take it that part one refers to two individuals: Satan and Eve. Whereas just a few moments before they were chatting away with each other, they are now blood enemies.

While I could not find anyone else who would speak to this, I wonder if perhaps this could refer to the nation of Israel, as well. Please turn to Revelation 12. This chapter is fascinating in that it conveniently explains itself; we need not look elsewhere to identify its actors. In the Apocalypse the enemy has several names or descriptions, all of which refer to Satan. Note in Chapter Twelve,

v3: “a great red dragon”

v4: “the dragon”

v7: “the dragon. The dragon and his angels”

Then in v9 this dragon is clearly identified, linking him to our text in Genesis.

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

So we have established that “the dragon” is Satan. ➡ Now, back up to v1.

Read vv1-2.

We can identify the woman in this sign as Israel, since the sun is Jacob (i.e., Israel), the moon is Rachel, and the twelve stars their sons—the twelve tribes of Israel. Interestingly, the “crown” is *stephanos*, not the crown of kingship, but the crown given to victors. Ultimately Israel will be victorious through God’s defeat of their enemy. ➡

Read vv3-4.

Naturally we wonder who the child is; v5 tells us, removing any doubt.

Read v5.

Here we have “the serpent of old” trying to devour Israel’s child—Christ—at the moment of His “birth.” Talk about enmity.

Just like v15 in Genesis, the fantastical imagery in Revelation 12 has multiple explanations and prophetic values. For the sake of clarity I am restricting our discussion here to those pertinent to Genesis Three.

To be kind to those who faithfully attended my previous class on the *Last Things*—and to move this along—I’ll not go into all the background that brings us to that conclusion. If you are curious about that, go to my web site and grab the PDF file for the complete *Last Things* study and go to Session 29 on page 163.

2. EXTENDED (EVEN UNIVERSAL) ENMITY

And between your seed and her seed;

I think it is almost impossible to limit “seed” here to *just* the Messiah. It does mean that, as all seem to agree, but it also means more.

The woman’s very name, given her by her husband in v20, speaks of her human seed, for “Eve” means living, or life.

Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

Before we leave Revelation 12 let’s see how this extended enmity is revealed in this prophetic passage.

Read Revelation 12:15-17.

And we can see how this was played out in real, historical life in the psalms of David. We’ll look at just one.

Read Psalm 139:19-22.

This is why it makes sense that v15 is ultimately *good* news for the first couple and for believers today. There is a God-orchestrated and -ordained hatred between the followers of Christ and the father of evil. One cannot love both; if one is “in Christ,” one hates evil—and that is a good thing. Since the earth is Satan’s domain for the time being (2 Corinthians 4:4), the things of God and the things of this world’s system are incompatible—as we read in the apostle John’s first epistle.

Read 1 John 2:15-17.

We now take the next two parts out of order, taking first the prophecy which speaks of Christ’s wound.

3. A RECOVERABLE WOUND

And you shall bruise him on the heel.

Where better would a snake, slithering in the dust, wound a person than on the heel. But we must remind ourselves that this imagery is metaphorical, illustrative of Christ’s ultimate victory.

Had anyone else been the recipient of His “wound,” it would have been a fatal blow. Even in the apocalyptic imagery of the opening of the first seals, Christ is portrayed as “a Lamb standing, as if slain” (Revelation 5:6). Historically, Jesus Son of God was killed. Dead. Had He not been literally killed, the sacrifice would not have been effectual. And had He not died, His resurrection would have meant nothing—and hence there would be no future resurrection for the saints.

We say He received a “recoverable wound” not because of the nature of the strike, but because of who it was that was so struck.

Earlier Satan had personally attempted to destroy Jesus by spiritual, positional means. If Jesus had given into the Devil’s three-fold temptation, he may have remained physically alive, but positionally Jesus would have suffered a fatal blow. He may have retained the earth, but He would have lost everything else.

By dying for the salvation of man, the Son of God was raised to life, retaining the fullness of His glory and throne (Philippians 2:9-11). By His dying we—at it were, His “seed”—are given some of His glory and throne and, not least, eternal life with Him.

Read Isaiah 53:10.

We *all* live because of His “recoverable wound.”

4. A FATAL BLOW

He shall bruise you on the head,

This part of the verse contains the most encouraging news for those of us who daily wage war against the flesh, and against the culture of this earth. The good news is that the one in charge of all that will one day have His head crushed: a decidedly *fatal* blow.

Yet, the truth is that even this is metaphorical; just as the woman’s “seed”—the Messiah—will die but recover, the serpent (Satan) will be “crushed” by the Messiah—“He”—but will not die. There will one day be a fatal blow to Satan’s *program*, but he himself is destined for his own eternity.

He just won’t enjoy it.

We will not visit all the references, but the “bruising/crushing” of Satan (Romans 16:20) was and will be incremental. It is not as if he is blithely going about his business when, one day, God destroys him and his work entirely. That is not how it is being played out.

- Satan “fell” either before Creation began or shortly thereafter, yet even as he was granted rule over the earth he retained access to the throne room of heaven (Job 1).
- Subsequently, during the eschaton, he with his angels will be physically banished to the earth.
- During Christ’s Millennial reign on earth Satan will be bound in the abyss for those one-thousand years.
- At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, Satan will be released for a very short time to gather his forces for one last battle—which they lose when God sends down fire from heaven to consume them before the battle is even engaged.
- Immediately after his forces are consumed by fire, Satan will be “thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

Thus Satan will be “crushed” but not die; he will spend eternity being burned in the lake of fire.

From the perspective of the saints, however, who will then be enjoying *their* eternal state in blissful communion with the Godhead in a new Jerusalem on a new earth, Satan may as well be utterly dead: for the first time since the earliest days of Eden, Satan and his evil will exert no influence whatsoever over the earth.

It is important that I point out that while I have reordered the four parts of v15 for this discussion, it is right that they are in the order they are in God’s word. For Messiah, Christ Jesus will indeed have the last word in this epoch struggle. The last part of v15 speaks of the utter futility of Satan’s attack on the Christ. It won’t work—and that is the good news for all of us who have placed our trust in this Messiah.

You may wish to follow along using the chart on the back of the handout, which is Chart 16 from our *Last Things* study. The PDF containing all charts from the study is available at the Bible Studies page at our web site (separate from the PDF of the *Last Things* session notes).

SESSION 28

Judgment, part two
Genesis 3:15

1. Personal Enmity

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2. Extended (even universal) Enmity

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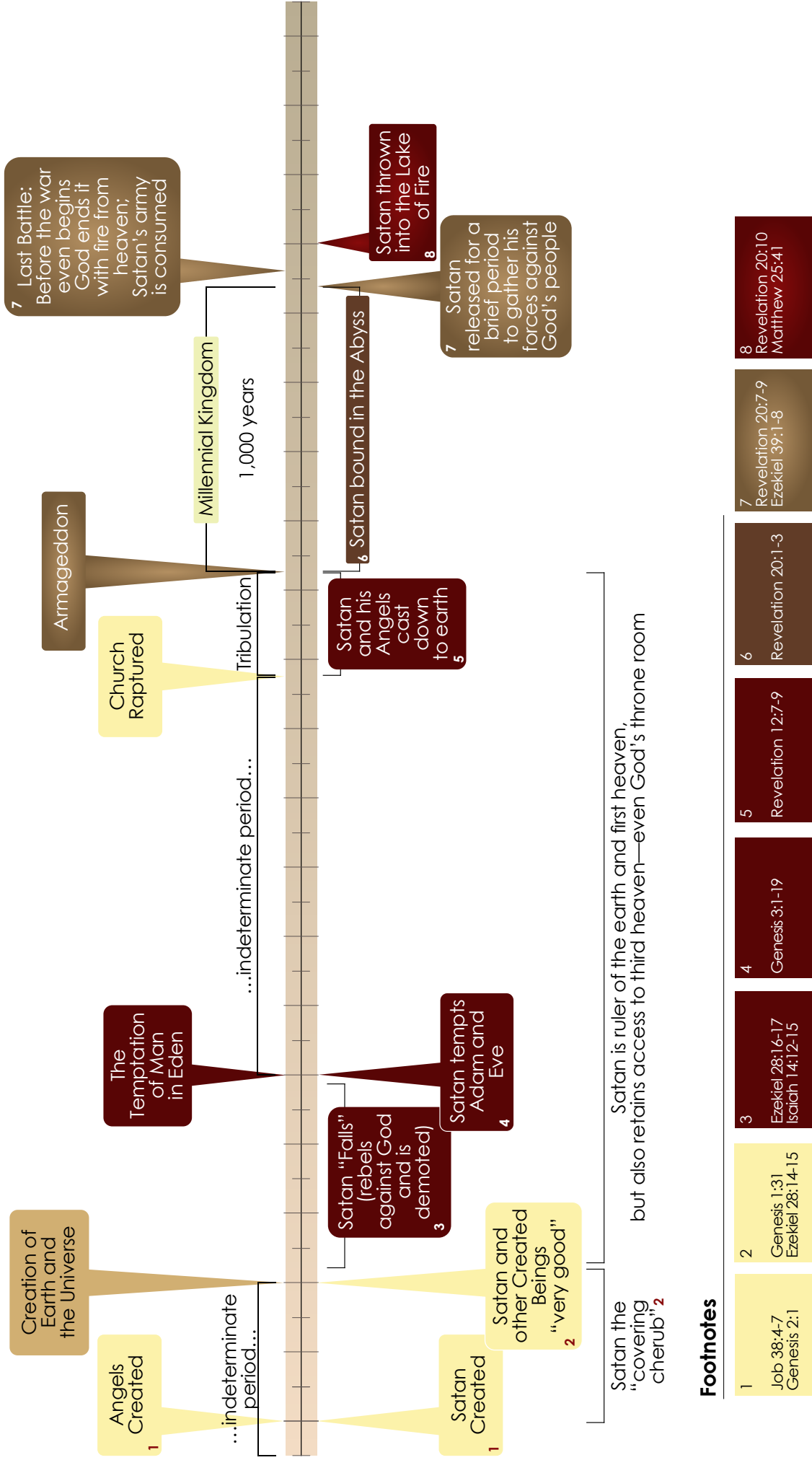
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For complete notes and audios for each session, go to DLAMPEL.COM/BIBLE-STUDIES/



TRACKING SATAN

The Rise and Fall of The Dragon



Footnotes

1 Job 38:4-7
Genesis 2:1

2 Genesis 1:31
Ezekiel 28:14-15

3 Ezekiel 28:16-17
Isaiah 14:12-15

4 Genesis 3:1-19

5 Revelation 12:7-9

6 Revelation 20:1-3

7 Revelation 20:7-9
Ezekiel 39:1-8

8 Revelation 20:10
Matthew 25:41



LAST THINGS