

# A Biblical View OF THE END TIMES

## THE VERY FIRST BIBLE PROPHECY

Week #4; Dec. 14, 2025, 6PM

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### Review:

- Last time we were together, we learned about some of the **dependent** truths concerning God's Word.
- **Since** the Bible is 100% inerrant, and **since** it is complete, fully authoritative, eternal, and meant to be understood, then that means certain things for us:
  - It means we need to employ a **consistent** and **literal** method of interpretation when we study it.
  - It means we need to rest in the fact that the Bible will not disagree with itself - - not if it is handled **properly**.
  - These are **dependent** truths of God's Word – we can be confident in these things because the Scriptures are based on the immutable (unchanging) character of God.
- We unpacked the '**3 rules of Biblical interpretation**.' They are:
  - Passages must be understood in light of their original Biblical meaning.
  - Passages must be in harmony with other passages on the same subject.
  - Passages must be in compliance with the development of the context.
- In turn, we then explored the two **primary** systems of Biblical interpretation within the church today: **Dispensationalism** and **Covenant theology**. We learned....
- A 'dispensationalist' is one who approaches the interpretation of God's Word **literally**. This is the right approach.
  - This approach is particularly significant when we are dealing with Bible prophecy.
  - Dispensationalism can be summarized by the following statement:

*"When the plain sense of Scripture makes good sense, seek no other sense, for it will result in nonsense."*

- Because a dispensational approach to Bible interpretation responsibly accounts for the character of God and His Word, it therefore recognizes that God's plan **from all eternity** includes a specific purpose for the church, and it includes a specific plan for Israel.
  - They are not the same plans. They are two different matters, and they are divinely ordained to be that way.
  - It also means the church has not **replaced** Israel, nor is the church an **extension** of Israel.

- We then explored ‘Covenant theology’ which – like dispensationalism – is really a framework for interpreting the Scriptures. Covenant folks are sometimes referred to as ‘Reformed.’
- While ‘Covenant’ adherents agree with dispensationalists on some very important points, they effectively take the opposite position on other matters.
  - We learned the covenant camp, at times, manipulates Scripture to arrive at the conclusions they WANT to embrace. It’s a matter of **personal choice**.
  - Covenant adherents are inclined to interpret God’s Word ‘**allegorically**’ or ‘**symbolically**’ if this helps them get to their desired positions.
  - They do not always agree that God’s Word means what it says, and so different interpretations exist within the Reformed camp. There is no clear standard.
  - This is very problematic for them. It is especially problematic when it comes to Bible prophecy - - **we saw that some of their own leadership acknowledge this.**
- Because the Covenant folks believe – to varying degrees – that God no longer has a plan for Israel and the Jews, and because they ‘spiritualize’ texts which they are unwilling to accept at face value, they therefore CHOOSE to believe:
  - The modern nation of Israel is prophetically irrelevant, and there is no literal 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom.
  - They also believe the church has replaced Israel. This heresy is known as ‘Replacement Theology,’ and it has led to some significant anti-Jewish sentiments within the Covenant or Reformed community.
  - (Or) they believe the church is an extension of Israel. This is also untrue – and it **also** tends to encourage biases against Israel and the Jews.
- The unfortunate outcome of all of this is the Reformed folks – which comprise the BULK of denominations and churches today – are inclined to dismiss Bible prophecy.
- It is inconvenient for them to teach Bible prophecy properly, since it forces them to confront their own choices, biases, and shortcomings.
- All the while (as we saw last time) they frankly admit that if they **were** to interpret God’s Word literally (as that **should** be done) they would arrive at the same convictions held by dispensationalists.
- **NOTE:** You can refer to last week’s notes to get a deeper dive on all of this – and I encourage you to do your own study on these matters. Be as the Bereans (**Acts 17:11**).

**NOTE: This week, I want to start diving into the details of Bible prophecy proper.**

1. We’ve laid a strong foundation, and now it’s time for us to ‘build the house.’
2. As I shared at the conclusion of last week’s lesson, today we are going to look at ‘**The Very First Bible Prophecy**.’ If you have your Bibles, please turn to **Gen. 3:15**.

#### **A. NOW, LET’S TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROPER START.**

1. When most people think of Bible prophecy, they think about the **end** of all things.
  - They think about the book of **Revelation** – they think about the future and the various judgments and apocalyptic things to come.

- They *might* think about the books of **Daniel** or **Zechariah** (or other parts of the OT) – and this would indeed be proper to do,
- But - most people think about the end of time. The **future**. The things that have yet to happen.

2. What is seldom the case is that anyone thinks about the very beginning.

- And insofar as the Bible is concerned, that is **Genesis**.
- If **Revelation** is the future, then **Genesis** is the past - - the ancient past.
- Few people think about the beginning of all things when it comes to Bible prophecy, but that's where we must direct our attention if we want to get the proper start.
- In this series, we will follow a loose trajectory from the front of the Bible to the back of the Bible (we'll bounce around as we need to, so we capture key passages, but I want to have an intentional flow here....)

## B. SO, LET'S LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

1. God said seven times in **Genesis Ch. 1** that everything He had created was “good.”
  - He made Adam. Things were ‘good.’ Then He created Eve. After that, in **Gen. 1:31**, God said things were “*very good*.” Makes sense to me...
  - Everything – and everybody - had a design and purpose in God’s sovereign plan, and it all met with His approval.
2. But ‘*very good*’ doesn’t mean everything in the newly created panorama of things at that time was perfect.
  - For example, we learn that it was not an ideal situation for Adam to be alone – so Eve was created.
    - Adam and Eve were ‘totally happy’ because - - there were no in-laws!
  - Now - - it may bother some of you to consider this fact, but evil was already present **before this point**.
  - Evil was already entrenched within the newly created order of things.
  - This fact does not take away from the truth of **Romans 5:12** which says:

*“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—”*

- **To be sure**, it was through one man – Adam – that sin entered the world – sin came into this world’s system and into the physical order of things. The Bible is clear about that.
- But **evil** had already expressed itself **before this point**, and it was alive and well in the Garden of Eden.

### C. HERE'S WHERE WE NEED TO MEET THE SERPENT.

NOTE: We are introduced to the serpent in **Genesis 3:1**. It reads as follows:

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"*

1. Various translations describe the serpent here as more subtle, shrewd, crafty, and cunning “....**THAN** any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.”
  - So right off the bat, we need to ask ourselves several questions:
    - “Was this really a talking snake?”
    - “If it **was** a talking snake then why was Eve not surprised to have a conversation with it?”
    - “Did all the other animals talk too, but this snake was just the smartest one in the bunch?”
    - Seriously now, is **that** what the Bible is **really** saying?”
2. What becomes obvious (if we apply any common sense to this matter) is this is no ordinary snake - - in fact, it's not a snake at all.
  - Nearly every translation calls it a serpent, and so, naturally, we all tend to think ‘snake’ here.
    - And it doesn't help that virtually every illustration of this occasion shows Eve having a little chat with a tree snake.
  - But here's where we need to remember the three proper rules of Biblical interpretation from last week's lesson.
    - Rule #1 was, “Passages must be understood in light of their original meaning.”
    - Rule #2 was, “Passages must be in harmony with other passages on the same subject,” and...
    - Rule #3 was, “Passages must be in compliance with the development of the context.”
3. Let's apply Rule #1 here > **let's figure out the original Biblical meaning**
  - We get the word “serpent” from the Hebrew word (וְנַחַשׁ) “nachash.”
    - It is used to mean a serpent – that much is true. But, it also holds **two other important meanings** when we evaluate what the Hebrew is saying:
      - ✓ The first of those is “*to use divinations, to deceive or to give omens.*”
      - ✓ The second of those is “*bronze, brazen, luminous or shining*”
      - ✓ (NOTE: In fact, the International Standard Version translation renders **Gen. 3:1** to say, “*Now the Shining One was more clever than any animal of the field...*”)

- ✓ This is a much better way to put it; there is no mention of ‘snake.’
- So, the total takeaway here is this creature – this serpentine-like “nachash” - was some sort of shining or luminous entity who was deceptive, and it was capable of giving dark spiritual insights or divinations.
- IMPORTANT: It was also **evil**, since it was urging disobedience to God’s command to not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.
- And while the new garden and the new earth were all “good” as God had declared them to be, and while God had said everything was ‘very good’ after both Adam and Eve were created...
- ...it is clear that evil, in the form of this “nachash” was already pre-existent and active **in the bigger picture**, behind the scenes.

4. Let’s now apply Rule #2 concerning proper interpretation – let’s see if this whole “shining, evil, serpentine-like entity that possesses spiritual insights and powers” **is a definition that is in harmony with what other passages say on this same issue.**

- FIRST, divine beings (like angels, etc.) are often referred to as “shining.”
  - (**Cf. Dan. 10:6** – Daniel sees an angel who is described as “gleaming like burnished bronze.” The word used is a derivation of the Hebrew word, “nachash.”)
  - (**Cf. Ezek. 1:7** – Ezekiel sees, in his vision, angelic creatures who “sparkle like polished bronze.” (Again, we have a derivation of “nachash.”))
- SECOND, the serpentine-like description of angelic or divine beings is also mentioned in Scripture.
  - (**Cf. Isaiah Ch. 6**) – Isaiah receives a vision of the heavenly throne room where God is in company with Seraphim – NOTE: the word ‘seraphim’ literally means “fiery” or “to burn.”
  - The root word “seraph” is also a Hebrew root word for “snake.”
    - ✓ In several places in Scripture, the word “seraph” is used, in fact, to describe “snakes,” even “fiery snakes” (**Cf. Numbers 21:6** when the Israelites complained against God and Moses).
    - ✓ In Isaiah’s vision, he saw God being praised by winged serpentine beings. (NOTE: we will be studying angels, types of angelic beings, and the hierarchy of angels later on in this series).
    - ✓ But suffice it for now to understand that above God’s throne, Isaiah saw righteous, fiery, glowing, divine beings of a serpent-like nature -- and they each had six wings...

**NOTE:** If this concept somehow rubs you wrong, and if you'd rather stick with those notions of angels being fat little bare-bottomed babies with stubby wings, or stunning 'model-like' beautiful women with powerful feathered wings – you need to know that neither of those representations are supported in Scripture. (Again – much more on this later...)

- ✓ Everything so far suggests that the "serpent" in **Gen. 3:1** was a rebellious divine being, having some attributes in common with the order of divine beings that Isaiah saw in his vision.
- AND THIRD - still concerning Rule #2 of proper interpretation - we must consider two slam-dunk verses found in **Rev. 12:9 and 20:2**.
  - **(12:9)** "*And the great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*"
  - Here, the term 'ancient serpent' is associated with the phrase "his angels" – so, we see here a clear association between this great dragon, or serpent, and 'angels.'
  - **(20:2)** "*He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*"
  - In both of these verses, a direct connection is made between "the devil or Satan" – AND – the "great dragon" which is also called "that ancient serpent."
  - The logic that is presented by passages being in harmony with each other is quite apparent. It's why we need to study the Bible properly.

**NOTE:** By this point – and although we've not exhaustively unpacked all the applicable texts – the picture is already quite clear.

**a. Here's what's NOT true:**

- The "serpent" in the Garden of Eden was not a snake of the modern scientific *reptilia serpentes* classification that happened to have a chat with a female *homo sapiens*.
- It was not any ordinary animal that had some special ability to talk where the other animals could not, and....
- It was not an ordinary snake that was demonically possessed (as some so-called 'experts' claim).
- In fact, demons didn't exist at that point in time as we will later learn. Fallen angels existed, but not demons. The two are different (more on all this later).

**b. Here's what IS true:**

- The "serpent" in the **Genesis 3:1** account was Satan himself – who appeared to Eve as an 'intelligent shining serpentine-like being, capable of deceiving.'
- This also conforms to **2 Cor. 11:14** where we learn that "*Satan masquerades as an angel of light.*"

- The Bible makes the case that Satan appeared to Eve in his angelic state: a serpentine-like divine creature who - **AFTER his own PRIOR fall** - was evil. He had the ability to understand spiritual matters and to communicate.
- The Bible calls Satan “*that ancient serpent*” and also a “*great dragon*.” In light of the Biblical evidence, these phrases must be understood as accurate **physical** descriptions.

**NOTE:** That was the backdrop. Now we need to move forward a few verses to “the first prophecy” in the Bible (**Cf. Genesis 3:14-15**). Given what we’ve just learned – I hope this will make sense.

#### D. LET’S EVALUATE THE SCENE

1. The serpent (Satan) was successful in getting Eve to disobey God.
2. Eve, in turn, got Adam to do the same.
3. **Now**, sin has entered the **physical** world. It has moved from the confines of the **spiritual** realm > from Satan’s fall, into the physical realm and the fall of man.
4. Adam and Eve have suddenly come down with an acute body image disorder, they have a crash course in clothing design, and they hide from God.
5. So, God calls a meeting. He’s got Adam, and Eve, and Satan. They’re all present.
6. Adam blames Eve, and Eve blames the serpent. It’s ‘pass the buck.’ A basic symptom of sin is not seeing yourself as having the problem.
7. But the fig leaves are starting to curl and dry, and Adam and Eve are feeling desperate and fearful. It’s the guilt of sin they are experiencing.
8. Here is where God pronounces curses on each party that is present.
  - We won’t focus on what God says to Adam or to Eve, as those are tangents to our primary concern.
9. We’ll focus instead on what God says to Satan – and that’s what we read in these two verses:
  - **First**, God tells Satan, “*Cursed are you above all livestock and wild animals.*”
    - Again - this doesn’t mean the villain here was a talking snake, or just another animal.
    - That view – as we’ve seen - doesn’t conform at all to Rules #1 and #2 of proper Biblical interpretation.
    - It DOES mean that God is underscoring the severity of Satan’s fate.
      - ✓ God says Satan’s curse will be of greater consequence and lasting significance than all other entities **of God’s created creatures** by comparison.
  - Then God tells Satan that he’ll crawl on his belly and eat dust.
    - This doesn’t mean the snakes we see today once had legs or wings. Again – this is not about ‘running reptiles.’
      - ✓ God is instead stating that Satan is being condemned to an extremely subordinate or lowly fate.

- ✓ Remember, Satan was once Lucifer ("Star of the Morning") and he was second only to God Himself. That has changed.
- ✓ It doesn't mean that Satan was going to physically eat dust.
- ✓ No ordinary snake does that. This is not a diet-related curse. Again - we need to exercise some common sense here.
- ✓ Think of it as God punishing Satan by saying, "*You will end up being the lowest of the low.*"
- ✓ We'd say, in a figure of speech today, "*Satan bit the dust.*"
- ✓ From God's perspective, Satan was cast down to the most humiliating destiny within the greater cosmos.

#### **E. AND THEN GOD PRONOUNCES A BOMBSHELL PROPHECY – AND THIS IS THE ONE THAT SETS THE TONE FOR ALL OTHER PROPHECIES TO FOLLOW.**

**NOTE:** The details of this stunning prophecy are in **vs. 15 of Gen. Ch. 3** – this verse is known as the '**protoevangelium**' ('proto-evan-JEL-ium:' the first form of the Gospel). 'Proto' is the prefix which means 'first,' like a 'prototype.'

**NOTE:** Now, there are essentially **five important predictions** that God makes AS HE SPEAKS TO SATAN. It's very important that we see these five things:

1. #1, there will be a **physical** seed lineage from **both** Satan and the woman.
2. #2, there will exist an **ongoing enmity** ("hostility") between the offspring (or 'seed') of Satan and the offspring (or 'seed') of the woman.
3. #3, the offspring of the woman will ultimately deal to Satan a **terminal** blow. He will "*crush your head*" God says.
4. #4, conversely, Satan (God says "you," speaking to Satan) will deal to the woman's offspring a **minor** wound by comparison (you will "*strike*" or "*bruise his heel*").
5. #5 – this is an easy one to miss – the offspring of the woman is identified as a **singular individual** – a "**He**," in fact.

#### **F. LET'S UNPACK THESE 5 IMPORTANT PREDICTIONS (WE HAVE TO GET THIS RIGHT) – NOTICE HOW WE WILL LEAN ON THE 3 RULES OF INTERPRETATION.**

1. The Hebrew word that is rendered 'offspring,' or 'descendants,' or 'seed' in our English translations is "**zera**" ('zeh-RAH').
  - God uses the **same term** when He refers to Satan **and** the woman – He doesn't use one term for the devil and a different term for the woman.
    - **He uses the SAME Hebrew word when talking about both...**
  - **IMPORTANT:** The Hebrew term 'zera' has been used several times in **Genesis** BEFORE this point (EX.)
    - **Gen. 1:11** – "...plants yielding **seed**..."
    - **Gen. 1:12** – "...plants and trees yielding **seed** after their kind..."
  - It's also used many places in **Genesis** AFTER this point (EX.)
    - When God made a promise to Abram in **Gen. 12:7** – "...to your **seed**, I will give land..."

- When God later reaffirmed His promises to Abraham concerning the latter's descendants, He said these promises were "...between Me and you and your **seed** (your descendants) forever...."

2. We need to ask an important question that should already have an obvious answer: "**What specifically is meant by the Hebrew term, 'zera'?**"

- **The term 'zera' means PHYSICAL seed.**
  - It is used to refer to genetic lineage, descendants, generations, offspring – and in fact, some of those actual words are used in our English translations.
  - It is used to describe the way **any** living physical organism reproduces and creates a subsequent generation.
  - It's true for elephants, monkeys, coconuts, people, and mosquitos -- anything physical that has a genetic signature, or a genome.
  - This point is very clear when the Scriptures specify plants that produce 'zera' AFTER THEIR OWN KIND.
  - Despite various deceptive, progressive, humanistic agendas in our time, the PLAIN truth is women contribute ovum to the creation of another human, and men contribute sperm.
  - When those two elements meet, the bills start piling up. The resulting child has **physical genetic markers from each parent**.
  - The child is the product of both individuals (this is the genetic 'seed' or 'zera' that the Bible is talking about).
  - And it is this genetic or physical 'seed' that God specifies when He pronounces this prophecy **to Satan**.

3. Right **here** is where many so-called 'scholars' and 'experts' get it wrong.

- They look at **Genesis 3:15** and they say something like, "*This means physical descendants for the woman, but it means 'spiritual descendants' for Satan.*"
- NO! -- it does not! It's the SAME thing for both!
- You cannot take a word that is divinely inspired to mean something very specific, and then claim it 'doesn't mean what it says.'
- That is irresponsible treatment of God's Word, and it's nothing less than dangerous irreverence. It is doubting the Bible's Divine Author.
- Remember Rule #1 of proper Biblical interpretation: "figure out the original meaning and stick with it"
- In **Gen. 3:15**, God tells Satan, "**YOU are going to have physical descendants, and there will be ongoing hostilities between YOUR physical descendants and the woman's physical descendants.**"
- As I stated last week, there is the temptation among some people to manipulate the Scriptures – **especially when they encounter something that conflicts with their personal preference.**

- It's why church leaders all over this nation today are shoe-horning Gospel applications into passages that are not about the Gospel.
- It's why pastors all over this nation today are skipping important truths in God's Word. They're choosing to advance a seeker-friendly agenda instead of responsibly 'equipping and edifying the saints.'
- It's why churches all over this nation leapfrog **Romans Chapters 9-11** in their "expositional study" of the book of **Romans**. They don't like what those chapters have to say about Israel and the Jews.
- It's why churches all over this nation today are promoting the heresy that "Israel means the church," that God's promises to the Jews are now forfeited, that the church is an extension of Israel, or that the modern Jewish state holds no prophetic significance.
- It's why various denominations today doubt the virgin birth, claim Jesus was a good man (but not God), that Jesus died but didn't rise again, or that there really won't be a physical 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom with Jesus Christ sitting on His throne in Jerusalem.
- It's why sin is no longer called sin, why secularists argue that there are dozens of gender types, why there are tampon dispensers in boys' bathrooms, and why human life is not sacred anymore.

**NOTE:** I could go on and on. When we begin to march down the path of stating, "*The Bible doesn't really mean what it's saying*," or when we ignore the truth that **IS** there in it, the consequences are profound -- and humanity spirals down a tragic and depraved descent.

- That's why **Galatians 6:7** says, "*Do NOT be deceived: God is NOT mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he ALSO reap.*"
- There are **always** adverse consequences to not taking Scripture literally and at face value. **The bottom line is the Bible means what it says.**

#### 4. OK – let's get on the downslope here:

**NOTE:** We unpacked the first of the five prophecies in **Genesis 3:15** – that was God's prophetic revelation that **both** Satan and the woman would have physical descendants conforming to the genetic order of things.

- The **second** – and related – prophecy is one we touched on a few moments ago: there would be **ongoing** hostility between the two sides.
  - This is an important issue to consider, because God doesn't put a second bookend on it. In other words, this matter is not yet closed.
  - We're going to see in the lessons just ahead that this hostility between the two "seeds" flared up dramatically in past times – but it still smolders today. It will flare up dramatically again in the future.
- The **third** prophetic element in this text is that the woman's 'seed,' or 'zera,' or offspring, will be a singular individual – a "**He.**"

**NOTE:** (I'm taking these five prophecies a little out of order here to make things easier for you all to understand).

- I'll cut to the chase. This "He" that God speaks of - this future individual that will "crush" Satan's head is Jesus Christ Himself.
- Jesus was born from a virgin (this was an OT prophecy made in ***Isaiah 7:14*** – "...*the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son...*")
- That ***Isaiah*** passage is the main text we point to when we talk about the prophetic virgin birth.
- But here in ***Genesis 3:15***, that **same** issue is alluded to. It is the 'seed of the woman' that is specified. No human **man** is involved.
- In ***Genesis 3:15***, the foundation is laid for the virgin birth prophecy, as well as the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.
- The 'seed' or 'genetic lineage' of both sides is prophesied here by God - - but on the woman's side, it is subsequently narrowed down to ONE individual – and that is Jesus Christ.
- The **fourth** prophetic element in ***Genesis 3:15*** is the fact that Jesus Christ will "crush" Satan's head:
  - This is language of 'fatal' or 'terminal' definition. Nobody survives with their head crushed.
  - It's a figure of speech. A literal interpretation allows for that – remember? The operative point is a time is coming when Satan will be fully and finally defeated.
  - It doesn't mean he dies; it means he's finished. Kaput! He has no more role or influence anymore.

**NOTE:** It's here that many uninformed Christians smile blandly and say – or they sing! (plenty of shallow worship songs try to make this point) – "Jesus crushed Satan's head at the cross."

- NO! Jesus did **not** crush Satan's head at the cross! That is incorrect and shallow theology. We need to stop saying that and singing that.
- The cross remedied the problem of sin. People gained salvation **by faith** BEFORE the cross, and people gained salvation **by faith** AFTER the cross.
- I'm not diminishing the critical importance of Christ's crucifixion at all, **nor** am I diluting the truth that Jesus Christ's sacrifice was "once for all." I'm simply stating what God's Word makes plain.
- In the OT, those who demonstrated faith looked **forward** in time.
- In the NT, those who demonstrated their faith looked **back** in time. ***Hebrews*** makes this very clear.
- Furthermore, Satan, according to ***1 Peter 5:8*** is still alive and well! That verse says, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
- NOTICE: Keep in mind - **that is a post-cross warning**, and in no way does it suggest Satan is now crushed.
- In fact, Paul is VERY clear in stating that Satan is NOT crushed AFTER the cross. In ***Romans***, Paul is writing to the church at Rome.

- ✓ He signs off on this doctrinally powerful book in **Chapter 16:20**, and he says, “*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*”
- ✓ The point is Satan, AFTER the cross, is still ‘uncrushed.’ He still has a role to play. He’s alive and well!
- ✓ Satan will not be fully crushed till AFTER the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom. (**Rev. Ch. 20** makes this fact very clear).
- ✓ That is a point still future to us – at **least 1,007** years away!
- The **fifth** and final point of this “first prophecy in the Bible” in **Genesis 3:15** is this: Satan will ultimately accomplish little more than bruising the heel of Jesus Christ.
  - This is language of contrast. Again, it is figurative language, which we learned all about last week. And so.....
    - ✓ Jesus will “crush” Satan’s head. Satan will be finished. He’ll be done. He won’t be a factor anymore. That’s what it means.
    - ✓ **Meantime**, by contrast, Satan will accomplish little more than nip at Jesus’ heel.
    - ✓ He’ll bruise it. It does no significant damage to Jesus Christ – or to God’s sovereign plan of salvation.
  - Make no mistake. At the cross itself, Satan and his fallen angelic hordes thought they had won the battle.
  - In the mayhem of that lingering hostility that **Genesis 3:15** spells out, Satan actually thought he’d won.
  - It was not until **after** that point – when Satan realized what had been achieved with Christ’s death and resurrection – that Satan realized he’d made a MAJOR tactical error.
  - This one was a BIG BLOW to Satan! If Satan had really known what was going to happen because of the cross, he wouldn’t have managed affairs to crucify Jesus.

**(Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:8)** – “*None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*”

**NEXT WEEK:** We will see how Satan and his fallen angels make their first chess move in this prophesied hostility between the “seed” of the woman and the “seed” of the serpent.

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# **SOLID BREAD**

Solid Bread Community was started with a passion to teach the truth of God's Word – every part of it, as it was divinely inspired to be understood.

The rules are simple. First, teach what IS there. Don't pretend the Bible is not saying what it is saying.

Second, don't teach what is NOT there. Don't force a passage to mean something it really doesn't.

And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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