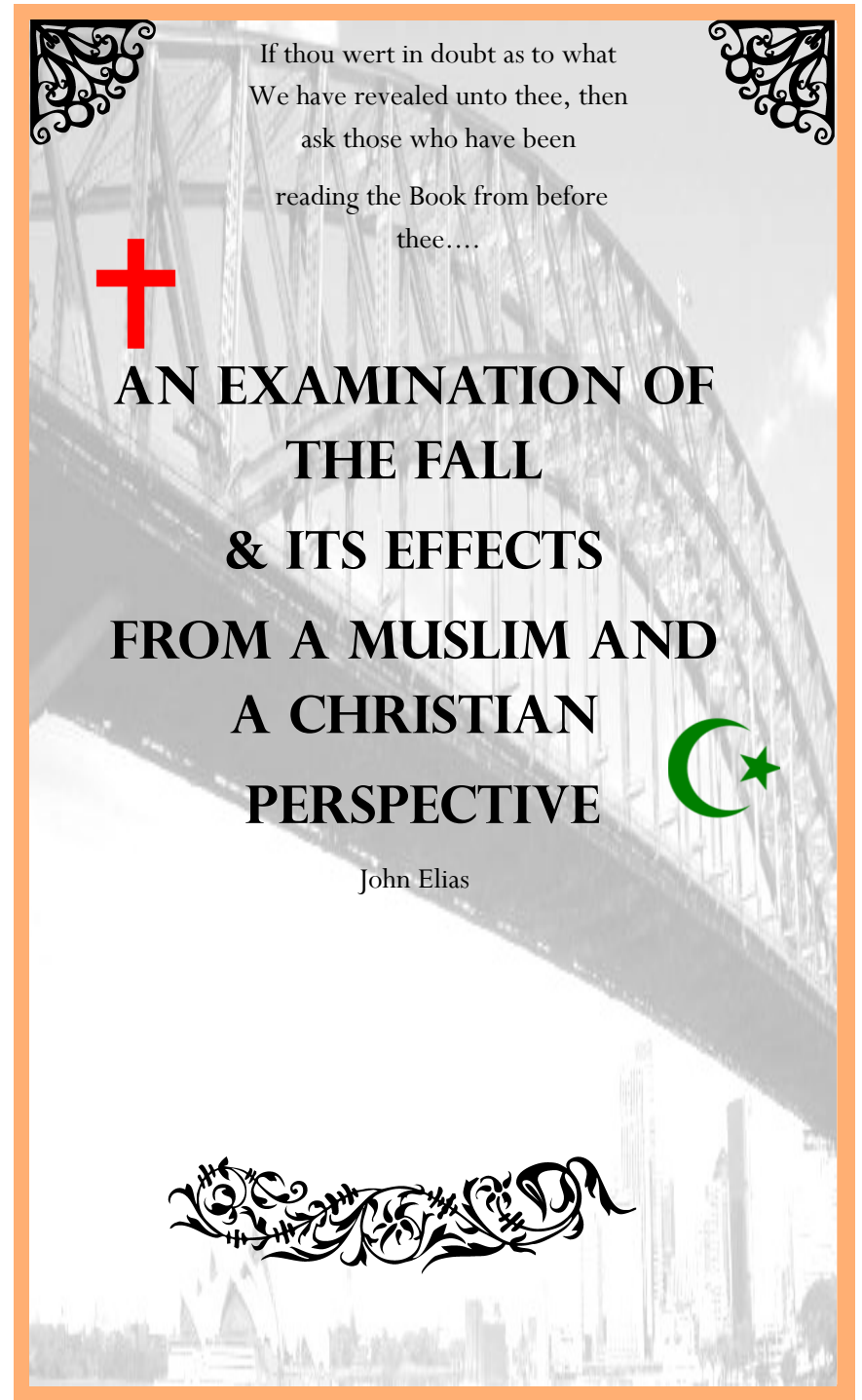




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What follows are reproductions of presentations made by Mubanal Kathrada and John Elias at an MBU in May 2014.

Mubanal Kathrada's presentation.

There is no big Fall in Islam. Sure there was a stumble; sure there was some difficult terrain to navigate. But the stumble did not progress into a big Fall. Here's why:

In *Surah 7/22* Allah challenges— *And their Lord called unto them: Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you that Satan was an avowed enemy unto you?"*

فَدَلَّهُمَا بِرُؤُوسِهِمَا فَلَمَّا ذَاقَا الشَّجَرَةَ بَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوْءُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا
يَخِصْفَانِ عَلَيْهِمَا مِنْ وَرَقِ الْجَنَّةِ وَنَادَاهُمَا رَبُّهُمَا أَلَمْ أَنْهَكُمَا عَنْ
تِلْكَ الشَّجَرَةِ وَأَقُلْ لَكُمَا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِكَاذِبٌ مُبِينٌ ﴿٢٢﴾

When Adam & Eve were chastised for their conduct; when they were caught with their hands in the cookie jar; they did not plead insanity. They did not plead the 5th amendment. They did not wait to be water boarded. They came straight put and pleaded their wrongdoing. They said, *Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers.*"

Surah 7/23 قَالَا رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Allah accepted their spontaneous, sincere repentance, and so the matter rested. Now let's add more muscle to the argument.

in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

That is why Jesus, who is God Himself, died on the cross for our sins. In Jesus, God met the requirements of His justice and of His love! Jesus died on the cross on our behalf, for our sin. In Deuteronomy 21:23 anyone who hangs on a tree is described as being under God's curse. Galatians 3:13 explains that Jesus, himself without sin, became a curse for us because he took our sin on himself. After paying the penalty for sin through His death, Jesus rose again. For someone who believes in his sacrificial death on their behalf, God promises forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven.

In Islam you carry your own baggage. No one is held accountable for another's oversights and omissions. You cannot inherit another's negligence. In fact, Islam operates like a conventional business—both the profits and liabilities are yours. Allah explains this principle in several verses of the Quran, here are two.

And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another.

And if a heavily laden soul calls [another] to [carry some off] its load, nothing

of it will be carried, even if he should be a close relative.

وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَإِن تَدْعُ مُثْقَلَةٌ إِلَىٰ جَمَلِهَا لَا يُحْمَلُ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ إِنَّمَا نُنذِرُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَمَنْ تَزَكَّىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَتَزَكَّىٰ لِنَفْسِهِ ۗ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿١٨﴾

Surah 35/18

Say, "Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things? And every soul earns not [blame] except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return and He will inform you concerning

قُلِ اللَّهُ يُنَجِّيكُمْ مِنْهَا وَمِنْ كُلِّ كَرْبٍ ثُمَّ أَنْتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

that over which you used to differ." Surah 6/64

The dispensation of mercy, charity, and grace extends to every man, woman, and baby. The Prophet said 'Every child is born in a state of **Fitrah** (purity, innocence, sinlessness). His parents make him a Jew, a Christian, a Muslim, or a sun worshipper.'

Adam was not expelled from Paradise. Sure, he was sent down to Earth after Satan coerced him into consuming the fruit. But, his journey to Earth was always part of Allah's universal plan. Why? Much before the episode with Satan, Allah informed the angels of his intentions. Behold thy Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a khalifa on earth.'

What does the word khalifa mean? Synonyms for Khalifa include: successor, replacement, next in line, deputy, minister, and substitute. Would Allah choose as his Deputy on Earth someone who had just been fired and banished from Paradise?

Allah] said,
Descend from
Paradise - all,
[your de-
scendants]

قَالَ أَهْبِطَا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ فَإِمَّا
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنِّي جَاءْتُكُمْ بِالْبُرْهَانِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
 وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْهُ يَكْفُرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَكْفُرُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنِّي جَاءْتُكُمْ بِالْبُرْهَانِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
 وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْهُ يَكْفُرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَكْفُرُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنِّي جَاءْتُكُمْ بِالْبُرْهَانِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
 وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْهُ يَكْفُرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَكْفُرُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ



being enemies to one another. And if there should come to you guidance from Me - then whoever follows My guidance will neither go astray [in the world] nor suffer. Surah 20/123

Logic tells me that if someone is being sentenced to Rikers Island, he should be sentenced to all dimensions of distress and misery. Clearly this was not the case with Adam and Eve who were promised guidance and freedom from misery.

One final thought on the duration of Adam's expulsion. I am sure that everyone here is aware of the very special reverence Muslims have for Friday. Friday is the day on which

It is a reality that there is an ongoing spiritual battle between Satan and man. But, this is a prophecy that Adam's descendent (Jesus) shall be injured by Satan, but Satan will be defeated and God's purposes will be accomplished. To picture this future sacrifice, God kills some animals and covers Adam's and Eve's shame.

We see the concept of sacrifice developed throughout the Torah and the Prophets. Its main meaning was that **it made atonement, it took away the sins of the people who offered it** (Leviticus 17:11). In that way they became acceptable before God because the punishment for their sin was paid on their behalf symbolically by the animal that was sacrificed. The whole procedure was to point to a perfect sacrifice to come in the future (Isaiah 53).

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--everyone--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit

to bargain with God for his salvation. Our salvation is God's pure and undiluted grace.

Evidence and experience points to the universality of sin and to the universally human tendency of mankind to serve self rather than to serve God. Throughout history, the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind is recorded in large letters

It is hardly coincidence that while morality must be taught, no one need to learn "immoral instruction" to understand and practice it;

After more than 2,500 years the words of the prophet Jeremiah still ring true: *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*"17:9

But it doesn't end there. There is the issue of Redemption
"How then does God allow us to go to heaven?"

The Bible tells us that God is holy (Leviticus 11:45). Holiness means He is separated from anything that is unclean, bad, and hypocritical, in other words from anything that is sin. God is purity and righteousness. Sin separates us from God, it brings as its wages death, spiritual and physical. Once a person is dead he cannot do anything, he is completely helpless.

Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.'21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

the power of congregational prayer is celebrated. The Prophet added the following: The best of days on which the sun has risen is Friday. On this day Adam was created and on this day he descended to earth. (Bukhari) in other words, Friday is stamped with additional honor and distinction because it was the day Allah sent his deputy to earth.

Let's understand the significance of the word **Insan**. Allah the designer and creator of mankind— the one who understands the complex programming and circuitry of mankind— addresses mankind as **Insan** (surah 76 al-Insan). The word **Insan** comes from the root word **Nisyan**; which means 'to forget'. There you have it, the cat is out of the bag. To forget is a natural part of human nature.

Now can anyone confidently declare that there is absolutely zero possibility that Adam forgot his lord's instruction?

Legislative commands versus advisory commands

Allah's orders are of two types—Legislative and Advisory.

Legislative commands must be implemented. If someone disobeys a legislative command, he commits a sin and is liable to be punished. To perform the five daily prayers, to avoid pork, and to show gratitude to parents are examples of legislative commands.

Advisory commands are advisory in nature. If someone does not implement an advisory command he is not committing a sin and will not be punished. However, he will have to face

the consequences of not following the advice. The command to say Bismallah when slaughtering a sheep is of an advisory nature. If someone slaughters a sheep without saying Bismallah, he has not committed a sin and will not be punished. However he will lose the right to eat the sheep. A Muslim cannot consume such meat.

The command given to Adam and Eve was of an advisory nature. Their not implementing such an order was not a punishable sin. At most, they had to face the consequences of ignoring the advice. The consequences they faced were the shortening of their guests of Allah status in Paradise. But, their stay in Paradise was only meant to be temporary.

Get to know your enemy

To prepare for his assignment on earth, Allah taught him the nature of all things. Surah2/31. But, Adam was still in college with no knowledge. He needed to be more street smart. To give him a shot in the arm, to give him a final dose of maturity; Allah demonstrated the guile, deception, and malice of his arch enemy Satan. Remember what the prophet said 'knowing something is not the same as seeing it.' (Hadith by Muslim) Satan did not say to Adam and Eve go and eat from that tree. He did not directly tell them to disobey Allah. He whispered into their hearts and planted disquieting thoughts and desires.

But Satan whispered to them to

فَوَسْوَسَ لَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ لِيُبْدِيَ لَهُمَا مَا وُورِيَ عَنْهُمَا مِنْ سَوْءَاتِهِمَا وَقَالَ مَا نَهَاكُمَا رَبُّكُمَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَا مَلَكَتَيْنِ أَوْ تَكُونَا مِن

excuse for abortion to name just a few.

Their provision for life on Earth became temporary
Death Gen 3:19 ... *till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*"

Death is not a bad thing. It is not the end of everything. It is moving to the next stage of existence. But the point is

Before the Fall

THERE WAS NO DEATH

After the Fall

ALL DIE

Adam's disobedience/sin had consequences which affected the whole human race.

The most serious effect was that of the inherited Sin Nature. This doesn't mean that no one can do something good or nice. It does mean that man is self-centered rather than God-centered and neighbour-centered. Man submits more readily to his own will than to the will of God. Sin's roots are present in a newborn child. Sin courses through his total being as blood courses through his veins. It infects his total being and the totality of his actions: his conscience, feelings, reason and will and, consequently, his works and motivation for them.

Man is incapable of restoring himself back into a right relation with God, of winning God's forgiveness and attaining his own salvation. Sin leaves man with nothing in his hands

Expulsion from the Garden

Gen 3:23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Toil in Labor

3:17 Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

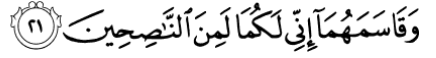
Woman's competition with Man

Man was created as the head. Woman was the helper suitable for his needs. She was the needed missing part for Adam.

3:16 Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Because of the Fall, woman would have a desire for his role. From this stems feminism, same sex relationship arguments, and women's rights as an

make apparent to them that which was concealed from them of their private parts. He said, Your Lord did not forbid you this tree except that you become angels or become of the immortal.' Surah 7:20

He won their conscience by taking a false oath—*And he swore [by Allah] to them,  Indeed, I am to you from among the sincere advisors Surah 7/21*

So, Adam succumbed. But he learnt a lesson he would never forget—the lesson of survival.

You and I are so human in our enthusiasm to judge and attach blame, we forget. We forget that the lesson taught to our parents Adam and Eve, shines a spotlight on the dark treachery of Satan.

You and I know our enemy that much better as a result. You know the saying 'to be fore warned is to be fore armed'.

John Elias' presentation.

What is the condition of man before and after the fall?

Gen 3:1-24 gives us the historical data to consider in this question. We are working with 3 important presuppositions.

The story of Adam is historical not myth or allegory;

The Garden was a place and not a condition;

The Biblical record is accurately preserved as God revealed it.

BEFORE THE FALL

In order to understand what happened to Adam, we must first consider four questions from before the Fall.

What was the Purpose of God in creating?

It was NOT BECAUSE He needed anything or was lonely

It was for His Glory *Isa 43:6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

1Cor 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

What is the significance of the Image of God?

part of them.

Psa 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

The sense in which a person is "sinful at birth" is by way of **inclination**, not by what they have done. All persons are "by nature children of wrath." (Eph. 2:3) because they are born with a **nature** to sin.

What were the consequences?

Shame enters world

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Gen 3:10 Adam said, I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Ezra 9:6 saying: O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

Philippians 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

twisting of words, Adam is there.

In vs 6 Eve saw fruit was good, a delight, she desired took and ate – where is Adam? Eve gave some to Adam and he ate. He made a conscious, rational, thought through decision to disobey God by not exercising dominion and by eating the fruit. This was not an accident, mistake, or forgetfulness it was rebellion

THE CONSEQUENCES

For Adam & Eve, but also their descendants

Christians believe that because of the covenant Adam's disobedience had consequences for all mankind.

Rom 5:12 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--

Is there any connection between Adam's sin and the sins of his descendants?

Yes, there is, but you may ask "Is this just?"

Adam by covenant was made by God to be the head and representative of all his descendants as he was also their physical head, and therefore when he fell they fell with him (Romans 5:12-21, 1Corinthians 15:22). The testing of his conduct was the testing of their conduct and his fall their fall. Because of Adam's first sin all the future generations came into the world in a state of sin and condemnation. Man's whole nature became depraved. Adam and Eve are the root of us. Because of them we are. In that sense we are

Out of all creation, only man is said to be made in the image of God.

Gen 1:26 Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Image and likeness refer to something that is similar but not identical to the thing it represents. Man is like God and in many ways represents God. It is not that God is defined by man.

It refers to God's character and attributes that are reflected in people. The term cannot be a reference to a physical appearance of God since Jesus says in John 4:24 that God is Spirit, and in Luke 24:39 Spirit does not have flesh and bones. Therefore, we can conclude that the image of God deals with humanity's reflection of God in such things as compassion, rationality, love, hatred, fellowship, etc

The image of God continued after the fall. Genesis 9:6 states that whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed because he was made in the image of God. So, it is clear that even after the Fall man was still made in the image of God.

Doesn't Freedom come with responsibility?

Covenant *Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*"18 *Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

But even in this covenantal relationship - Freedom – **Gen 2:8** *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden,*

Gen 1:26 Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Freedom and pleasure -Eat of every tree

Responsibility – exercise dominion

Work and keep it

Not eat from one tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Terms – obey and live, disobey and die

Is there death?

No death – this was part of the warning

THE FALL

It will be helpful to clarify our thoughts about the nature of sin. Some would classify disobedient acts into categories of great and small sins. While there are degrees of the effects of sins on others, to Christians any sin is an act of rebellion against the righteousness and holiness of God.

Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of the law of God (1John 3:4 Ro 4:15) in inward thoughts as well as in the outward conduct of life, whether by omission or commission (Romans 6:12-13, 7:5-26).

It is not only a violation of the law, but a rebellion against God (Genesis 20:6, 39:9, Psalm 51:4).

This results in alienation from God, the Creator. It results in the destruction of a personal relation between God and man based on covenant. And consequently, it ends in the alienation of mankind, one from another. In this is demonstrated the sinfulness of sin, its culpability, and its universality

Let's examine Adam's actions during this interaction of Satan and Eve in Genesis 3. We see: While the covenant was made with Adam before the creation of Eve, she knew of it, she had been instructed by Adam.

Adam was present during the discussion – this is the one who by covenant is to exercise dominion over everything.

In the debate between the serpent and Eve with the deceitful