

The Woman in the Wilderness and the Dispute in Heaven

Before continuing, it is important to understand that the “war in heaven” described in Revelation is not a physical conflict. The Greek text makes it clear that it is a **spiritual dispute**, rooted in a mistranslation that changed how people interpreted the woman in the wilderness and her child.

Revelation describes a woman taken into the wilderness. The common translation says she “gave birth to a son who would **rule the nations with an iron rod.**” This is a severe mistranslation. The Greek verb does not mean “rule.” It means **shepherd** — to guide, to care for, not to dominate. The difference between ruling and shepherding is central to the meaning of the passage.

Because of the mistranslation, later interpreters assumed the child was destined to govern the world with force. This idea created an entire doctrinal structure that does not exist in the Greek text. Some even concluded that the woman would become a “**new Eve**” for a new creation, another idea that depends entirely on the incorrect translation.

This mistranslation is what produced the so-called “war in heaven.” The Greek word *polemos* does not describe a battle. It describes a **dispute**, a spiritual conflict over meaning and intent. One faction believed the child was meant to rule over people. Another believed the world should be destroyed and remade. Both conclusions are incorrect. Both arise from the mistranslated verb.

The Greek text about the woman herself is explicit. She is taken to be **completely alone** — the word is *erēmos*, meaning solitary, isolated — and she is **cared for directly by God Almighty**. She is not present in this universe. She is alone in a safe place, protected. Nothing in the text supports the idea that she is here, or that she participates in the dispute.

The False Trilemma

This is why the mistranslation matters. It created three false spiritual positions:

- **the bull of Baal** — the ruler archetype.
- **the plow** — the destroyer archetype.
- **The divine mother archetype**

None of these positions are correct. None of them reflect the Greek text. All three are consequences of a mistranslates.

The mistranslation makes these two scenes look like one caused the other. In English, it reads as if the woman runs into the wilderness and, because of that, a war suddenly breaks out in heaven. But the Greek text does not connect them this way. It only places the scenes side-by-side. The English wording creates a dramatic chain reaction that the original text never intended, which is why the mistranslation feels deliberate rather than accidental.

Understanding this spiritual dispute clarifies the rest of Revelation. Once the mistranslation is removed, the narrative becomes coherent, and the remaining symbols fall back into their original pattern. The next section continues this correction by examining how the final vision resolves the false choices created by the mistranslation.

You cannot claim a divine mandate from a mistranslation in the Scriptures.

Excerpt from the eBook The End of Time by Raphael E. Asanti – Full book available at: <https://raphaelasanti.github.io/the-end-of-time/>