

Gesenius, W., & Tregelles, S. P. (2003). “Gesenius’ Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures”

(comp. of לֹבְ not, without, and לַעַי benefit, profit, compare לִיעֵוָה to be useful, and Arab. لَعِي and لَوَع i.q. لَوَع noble, prince; and not as said by Fischer, in Proluss. De Verss. Græc. p. 93, from יֹלֵב and לֹעַ a yoke, as if impatience of the yoke, contumacy) pr. *unprofitableness, worthlessness, what is useless, of no fruit* (compare Arabic لِيَطْرِيغ useless, of no profit, little worth). Hence—

(1) *wickedness, vileness*; לַעֲיֹלָב שִׂיא “a wicked man.” 1 Sam. 25:25; 30:22; לַעֲיֹלָב סָדָא Pro. 6:12, and לַעֲיֹלָב־יָב 1 Sa. 25:17 id. Pl. often לַעֲיֹלָב־יָב 1 Sa. 2:12, and לַעֲיֹלָב יָבַב מִשְׁנָא, לַעֲיֹלָב יָבַב מִשְׁנָא Deu. 13:14; Jud. 19:22; 20:13. לַעֲיֹלָב תָּב “a wicked woman,” 1 Sam. 1:16; לַעֲיֹלָב רָבָד “an evil, wicked thing,” Ps. 41:9; 101:3; compare Deu. 15:9. לַעֲיֹלָב רָבָד הִיָּהי נָפ “lest there arise a wicked thought in thy heart.”

(2) *destruction*, Nah. 1:11, לַעֲיֹלָב זָעוּרִי “who plans destruction;” Ps. 18:5, יְנוֹחַעֲבֵי לַעֲיֹלָב יִלְהֹנ “the streams of destruction make me afraid” a metaphor taken from waves, which is not unfrequent in the sacred writers. LXX. χεῖμαρροι ἀνομίας, i.e. enemies rushing like torrents. Some moderns incorrectly render “torrents of hell.”

(3) Ellipt. for לַעֲיֹלָב שִׂיא *a wicked man* (see No. 1), 2 Sa. 23:6; Job 34:18, *a destroyer, causer of destruction*.

[“Note. Hence was derived in later usage and in New Test. the pr.n. Βελίαλ, or Βελιάρ, *Belial*, i.q. ὁ πονηρὸς, *Satan*. The English version also gives לַעֲיֹלָב in the Old Test. as a pr.n. *Belial*, but incorrectly[?]. See Thes. page 210.”]