

THE STUDY OF THE SNAKE

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Genesis 3:14

Why is the study of the snake important? The snake is symbolic of what it means to experience a **GREAT FALL**. When people think of the snake their mind directs them toward the idea of a serpent and the devil.

This idea is not wrong. The snake does represent the serpent and the devil. However, this teaching is going to examine the snake under a different and unique lens.

The snake is an intelligent creature. It is a patient, calculated, deadly, poisonous reptile. Scientifically, they are symbols for rebirth, transformation, healing and immortality. With all this being said, why did the spirit of the serpent choose to enter the body of the snake?

The serpent is a wiley, treacherous or malicious spirit (person). A snake is a limbless animal who God created. Yes, God created the snake.

Genesis 1:25 says, "*And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*"

It is important to know the difference so you can understand why this demonic spirit chose the snake to possess. The serpent understood the qualities and characteristics of the snake. He knew what ability the snake had. That's why he selected this creature to possess.

WISDOM NUGGET

Snakes are not evil. The serpent spirit that possessed the snake was evil.

SNAKES STOOD TALL

BEFORE the great fall, snakes were **NOT** made to crawl and slither on the ground. They actually stood tall. They were creatures who stood upright. The current posture of the snake is due to the **GREAT FALL OF ADAM AND EVE**.

The snake slithers on the ground because of the curse God put on it. Genesis 3:14 says, "*And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*"

The scripture explains that **AFTER** God cursed the serpent it was crawling on its belly. This statement is powerful because it implies that the snake was in an upright position before the curse. What you see today with the snake is the physical realization of God's curse.

WHAT TO LEARN FROM THIS

The serpent was an upright creature that stood tall. His stature impacted his vision, perspective, respect and lifestyle. When God has blessed you to be upright you see things from the top down. Your vision is broad. Your options are greater. You benefit from a greater level of prosperity because you are able to receive the best of what is given.

However, when you are at the bottom your vision is limited. You cannot see what is ahead of you. You can only see what is in front of you. Your options are limited. When you're at the bottom you receive the left overs, the least and the scraps of what other people leave behind.

PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL

"Pride goeth before destruction, And an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18

If you live and behave under the Influence of pride you will experience the downfall of the serpent. God will

cause you to be in a **LOWLY** position. In other words, you will experience a **CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE**.

When the serpent was cursed by God it changed his lifestyle. The same will happen to you if you are prideful. When your vision changes from broad too limited your lifestyle is changing. When your options are changing from many too few your lifestyle is changing. When your prosperity turns into poverty your lifestyle is changing.

There is a valuable lesson you can learn from the serpent. **DO NOT TURN AGAINST THE LORD!** It is not effort that is making you successful. It is His **GRACE**. It is not your intellect that is getting you ahead. It is His **MERCY**. Do not take credit for God's glory in your life.

STAY HUMBLE!

STAY FAITHFUL!

STAY DILIGENT TO HIS WILL!

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