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Serpent.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Serpent.

Topics.

- Adam and Eve and the deception of the serpent. (Gen. 3:1).
- Dan shall be a serpent by the way. (Gen. 49:16-17).
- The Lord's hand hath formed the crooked serpent. (Job 26:12-13).
- Their poison is like the poison of a serpent. (Psalm 58:3-5).
- They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent. (Psalm 140:1-3).
- Red wine bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. (Prov. 23:29-33).
- Nations shall lick the dust like a serpent. (Micah 7:15-20).
- If man Son asks for a fish will give him a serpent? (Matt. 7:9-10).
- Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. (John 3:14-15).
- The serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety. (2 Cor. 11:3).
- The great dragon that old serpent the devil, and Satan. (Rev. 12:9).
- The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood. (Rev. 12:14-15).
- The dragon the old serpent the devil and Satan. (Rev. 20:1-3).
- Enmity and the woman's seed and the serpents seed. (Gen. 3:14-15).

THE MEANING OF SERPENT

The word serpent comes from the Hebrew word (*nachash*) and from Strong's Concordance literally means a snake (from its *hiss*). It carries a positive and negative meaning. Negatively it carries idea of being evil and the sense of being crafty, cunning, deceptive, dishonest, unethical, treacherous and misleading and false in wisdom, speech and character. Positively it carries of the idea of being good in the sense of being prudent and skillful in taking on a project and accomplishing anything. It can carry the idea of being wise, sensible, clever, rational, intelligent and discerning in understanding. The serpent of the Bible is a symbol of cunning, false wisdom and enchantment (i.e., temptation, attraction and fascination). The spiritual character, motivation and goal of the serpent is to appeal, entice and tempt brothers and sisters in Christ by glamour, charisma, charm, attractiveness and beauty and lure them away from their faith and away from what is right and good by seductive false wisdom and enthusiasm.

GENESIS 3:1

ADAM AND EVE AND THE DECEPTION OF THE SERPENT

- **Genesis 3:1:** 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'?"

This verse gives us the following three insights into the serpent:

1. The serpent was a created creature that God made.

2. The serpent was an animal of the field (clearly one of the most beautiful).
3. The serpent was far more-crafty (cunning, devious and deceitful) than any other animal God had created.

We know very little of the animal Kingdom prior to the fall of Adam and Eve's, but it is quite likely some of animals if not all were able to communicate with Adam and Eve. Remember God gave a donkey the ability to speak for a moment in time (Num. 22:28-30) (2 Pet. 2:16) so it is very likely God created the more superior and beautiful animals with intelligence and the ability to speak. We know that the animals prior to the fall were harmless and ate the grass and leaves of the trees. Whatever form the animals took on and how they appeared during the age before the fall we will never know until the glorious Kingdom age, when a child will again be able to lie down with a wolf without any fear of harm (Isa. 11:6) (Isa. 65:25). The serpent approaches Eve and very cleverly and subtly plants doubt in her mind by challenging what God had said. The serpent fully conscious of what he is doing asks Eve:

- Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree (every tree in KJV) in the garden?" (Genesis 3:1)

The LORD actually said to Adam:

- You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat (Gen. 2:15-17).

It is recorded in the Bible that God personally spoke this to Adam, but it is not recorded in any Scripture that God actually spoke to Eve, though it is most likely Eve was with Adam when God spoke it since it was such an important message and both Adam and Eve would have had fellowship with the LORD in the garden. Eve had no doubt about what God had said since she quoted it correctly to the serpent when he challenged her (Gen. 3:2-3) Eves deception was not a result of not knowing what God had said, but in the serpent's lie that she could be like God as we will see as we progress, but before the serpent throws out his ultimate temptation he begins by tempting Eve to question what God had said:

The following verses are God's words to Adam:

- The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it and the LORD God commanded the man saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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 (Gen. 2:15-17).

Now go to chapter three and verse eleven:

- The LORD said to Adam, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou should not eat?" (Gen. 3:11).

NOTE: we are clearly told that the serpent was an animal of the field (Gen. 3:1) (howbeit a most glorious one) and because of his cunning and deception the serpent has become a symbol of every form of cunning, deception, dishonesty, trickery and con that cheats a person by charm, beauty and charisma from what is rightfully theirs.

The serpent is not some type of powerful evil creature called Satan as many believe, but a symbol or reference to whoever uses charm, flattery, subtleness, lies and deception to take from a person, an organization, a government or nation what should rightfully be theirs or to an individual, an organization (religious or secular), a government or nation that deceives others for their own gain and their own advantage. The title serpent can apply to any man or woman, any organization or institution (religious or secular) and to any government or nation that uses lies and deception clothed in skillful oratory and charming speeches that appeal to the people and promises them blessings, but have an evil hidden agenda behind them.

- **Genesis 3:2-5:** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve correctly answers the serpent question, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (Gen.3:1) by telling the serpent the LORD actually said, “We may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 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 (Gen. 2:16-17). It is certain the serpent knew exactly what he was doing when he was challenging Eve, to question what God had said. Here is the beginning of the serpent’s subtle deception and the cunning of the serpent, God did not say, “You will not surely die,” (Gen. 3:4) as the serpent suggested to Eve, but that they will surely die (Gen. 2:17) (Gen. 3:3).

The serpent continues with his cunning, subtle deception by saying to Eve, “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:5). Even though Eve knew what God has said and quoted it correctly to the serpent a certain amount of doubt was beginning to rise, but here is the real deception and temptation that caused Eve to act on the words of the serpent, “You will be like God.” This lie of the serpent is a most attractive deception because it appeals to pride, self and ego.

- **Genesis 3:6:** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

The serpent tempted Eve with the following three temptations that are common to all mankind:

1. Tasty food.
2. Beauty to the eyes.
3. Wisdom.

- **Genesis 3:7-8:** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, their eyes were opened to know embarrassment, shame and fear when coming before the LORD. Adam and Eve felt shame and embarrassment even though no one had taught them of these things and they obviously did not feel it prior to their eyes being opened, yet something inside of them knew something was wrong when they stood before the LORD. Maybe this is one of the reasons why mankind feels uneasy when they are being witnessed to, perhaps even though they may not understand it or be consciously aware of it something inside of them feels a certain sense of shame and embarrassment when they are being confronted by the Holy Spirit of God as Adam and Eve did without any covering. If this is so perhaps our witnessing should be focused more on the love and grace of God rather than the judgment of God.

NOTE: prior to the fall Adam and Eve did not have clothing as we have today, we know this because after the fall God made garments of skins and clothed them (Gen. 3:21), yet though they had no clothing and not covering prior to the fall they did not feel any sense of shame or nakedness before the LORD. This is most likely because their bodies were clothed in some kind of glorious light much like we will be when resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory since it is certain our immortal bodies will not need man-made clothing of cotton and wool.

SUMMARY: the serpent was an animal of the field like any other animal (howbeit a glorious one). The serpent raises doubt in God's word by telling Eve she can be a greater person and even become like God Himself. The serpent from the time of Adam's and Eve's fall became a symbol of deception by charm, beauty, cunning and lies throughout the Bible.

GENESIS 49:16-17

DAN SHALL BE A SERPENT BY THE WAY

- **Genesis 49:16-17:** "Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.

Jacob (v1) likens his son Dan to a poisonous serpent hiding himself until he can strike his enemy when they are least expecting it. Here we see that the title serpent has become a common title for anyone who is sly, cunning and dangerous and has the power to bring others to ruin.

JOB 26:12-13

THE LORD'S HAND HATH FORMED THE CROOKED SERPENT

- **Job 26:12-13:** He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. ¹³ By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

Long after the fall of Adam and Eve Job is in great agony and in his exaltation of God's greatness says, "God created the crooked serpent" this clearly is a reference to the serpent creature that by sly cunning deceived Eve who in turn enticed Adam to eat of the forbidden fruit. Since this one act of the serpent creature in the garden of Eden changed the entire course of human life the title serpent has for all who believe in God become the common expression to apply to anyone who is sly, cunning and deceptive and especially to anyone who uses flattery and charming words and messages to entice God's people away from the right path and their faith.

PSALM 58:3-5

THEIR POISON IS LIKE THE POISON OF A SERPENT

- **Psalms 58:3-5:** The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. ⁴ Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: *they are* like the deaf adder *that* stoppeth her ear; ⁵ Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

Poison in this context refers to anything that will bring a person, an organization or a nation to ruin. The wicked are likened to a serpent who when its charmer plays upon his musical instrument the serpent, instead of responding to the music and rising up remains deaf to it. The Psalmist in these verses is saying that the wicked are like these deaf serpents instead of hearing the words of the wise and changing their wicked ways they remain deaf to them. Consider for a moment there is no other animal on earth that is used as a symbol of lies, deception and wickedness as commonly as the serpent snake is.

This is not an accident it is a reference back to the story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and the serpent cunning whether people today are aware of it or not. There is no other reason that the serpent would become such a common figure of lies, deceit and cunning on such a global scale as it has today.

THEY HAVE SHARPENED THEIR TONGUES LIKE A SERPENT

- **Psalm 140:1-3:** Deliver me (David), O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man; ² Which imagine mischiefs in *their* heart; continually are they gathered together *for* war. ³ They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison *is* under their lips. Selah.

David's words, "They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent, adders' poison is under their lips" carries the idea that they have not only made great speeches that have poisoned the people against David, but also enticed the people by these great speeches to rise up in war against him. The serpent in this context is evil and violent men who have corrupt and deceptive hearts and who have the ability to use skillful oratory and enticing and clever speeches to gather people together for war for their own evil purposes, advantage and gain.

PROVERBS 23:29-33

RED WINE BITES LIKE A SERPENT, AND STINGS LIKE AN ADDER

- **Proverbs 23:29-33:** Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? ³⁰ They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. ³¹ Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. ³² At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³ Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

These verses are not about having a glass of wine with a meal or sharing a bottle of wine with a loved one at a romantic dinner these are not sinful things it is drinking an excess of alcohol that is in focus because too much alcohol causes people in a drunken state to do unlawful things and things they would not normally do in a right frame of mind. Red wine looks good to the eyes, it tastes wonderful to the mouth and in the beginning makes one pleasantly joyful, but for those who do not know when enough is enough its end is destruction. This is why it is likened to a serpent in these verses, it begins as all deceivers do by promising something better (in wine's case joy), but contained within the promise is at its end the potential to bring a person to heart-ache and ruin. One of the attributes of wisdom is the ability to see if the end-result of an action or decision we make in the present-moment will be a good one or a bad one.

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MICAH 7:15-17

NATIONS SHALL LICK THE DUST LIKE A SERPENT

- **Micah 7:15-17:** As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvelous things. ¹⁶ The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf; ¹⁷ they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

Micah likens the nations of the world to serpents who because of their fear of Israel and the LORD their God move out of their holes like fearful worms. This takes the mind of the ardent Bible student back to the following words God spoke to the serpent in the beginning of Genesis, "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" (Gen. 3:14). Micah many years after God spoke

these words to the serpent is in this prophecy likening the nations to a serpent who is crawling upon the dust of the earth. This clearly shows how strongly the image of the serpent is engraved upon the screen of the mind of God's people as a creature of distain, revulsion and loathing.

SERPENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Serpent: (a snake) in the New Testament is from the Greek word (*ophis*) and carries the idea of sharpness of vision. Figuratively it carries the idea of a type of sly cunning, artful malicious person. Following are all the verses in the New Testament that use the word serpent.

MATTHEW 7:9-10

IF MAN IF HIS SON ASKS FOR A FISH WILL GIVE HIM A SERPENT?

- **Matthew 7:9-10:** Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? (Luke 11:11 is a parallel passage)

Obviously, no loving father would deny their hungry child food or give them something that would be unhealthy to their well-being or poisonous. Serpent in this context embraces any type of food that would not only be harmful to a person's well-being, but that could also result in their death.

JOHN 3:14-15

MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

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Jesus said:

- **John 3:14-15:** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Jesus words, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness" (v14) refer to the following words recorded in the book of Numbers, "So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole and if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live" (Num. 21:9). The story of the serpent on the bronze pole fabulously echoes Christ on the cross. A little after Israel's deliverance from Egypt (called the house of bondage) the people of Israel sinned by speaking against God and against Moses so the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people so that many people of Israel died.

Moses prayed for the people and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." Moses erected a bronze serpent on the pole and if a serpent bit anyone, they would look at the bronze serpent and live (Num. 21:5-9). How majestic and beautiful is the word of God, especially when we think of the following words of Jesus:

- When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he (John 8:28) and, "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out and when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself (John 12:31-32).

Bronze is a symbol of judgement and the serpent in this context symbolizes sin, which means the serpent on the bronze pole is also a wonderful picture of Christ dying for the sin of all mankind, (though he never sinned himself). Just as the people of the Old Testament look at the serpent on the pole and lived, so it is now whenever a sinner comes with honest heartfelt repentance before the Saviour who died for them on the cross their sins are forgiven and they are promised life eternal.

THE SERPENT BEGUILED EVE THROUGH HIS SUBTLETY

- **2 Corinthians 11:3:** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

This verse shines a spotlight on the truth that the serpent throughout the Bible has become a symbol of anything that deceives the mind by:

- Subtlety and devious cunning and calculating scheming craftiness.
- Flattery, charm, fascination, enchantment and charisma.
- Using deceptive and misleading wisdom that seems to be plausible and makes sense to the human mind, but is false.
- Complicating the simple salvation message, by adding far more intellectual knowledge, laws and rules to it than is needed.

The serpent in view here is not some powerful evil spirit creature, but false religious teachers who have the nature of the serpent in that they appear on the outside to be righteous, but on the inside are deceiving and devouring wolves.

REVELATION 12:9

THE GREAT DRAGON THAT OLD SERPENT THE DEVIL, AND SATAN

- **Revelation 12:9:** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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The serpent, the devil and Satan in these verses are personified as a dragon that has been cast down to earth. This is an amazing chapter full of so many symbolic pictures, types and symbols that it is far to glorious a chapter to cover in this study especially since our focus is upon the serpent and because of this the following notes centre only on upon the nature and character of the serpent that these Scriptures present and not the amazing prophecy contained within them. For much greater detail concerning these verses and the prophecy, see:

- Revelation Chapter Twelve in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

From these verses we see that the serpent, the devil and Satan are all part of the same entity which is the dragon. It could be said that the serpent, the devil and Satan are the body of the dragon. This is why the dragon is presented as a most fearful and powerful creature that influences the minds of world ruler's, the minds of leaders of organizations (secular and religious) and the minds of nations. The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan are all different aspects of the same entity.

The dragon: is a symbol of the greatest power of evil.

The serpent: is a symbol of subtlety and seducing enticement, meaning the character is such that it entices and persuades somebody to do something by making it seem desirable or exciting.

The devil: refers to the evil and sin in the human heart and mind.

Satan: generally, refers to the collective evil power of a group, organization (religious and secular) and of nations that are hostile toward God and aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A FLOOD

- **Revelation 12:14-15:** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. ¹⁵ And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

The face of the serpent refers to all forms of deception and enticing temptations and extremely hostile persecution. The words, "The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood means that from the time of Christ's death and resurrection those whose spirit denies God and is against Christ send out powerful messages that denies the God of creation, denies the Lord Jesus Christ and denies salvation by grace. During Christ generation this message most likely referred to the teaching of the chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes and the Jews who held fast to salvation by religious works, (i.e., no one could be saved apart from adhering to their ceremonial rites, their holy days and keeping their religious customs and traditions). This was one of the greatest spiritual battles Paul had with new converts. During the time of Paul there were certain powerful Jewish religious leaders that did accept many aspects of Christ and his teaching, but they still believed salvation could only be attained by adhering to Moses Law and by keeping their Jewish religious customs and traditions and were therefore constantly attempting to draw new converts back under the law.

The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

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This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practice of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for

their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life. Though salvation by works is still a great deception worldwide (especially religious works) in some Christian churches and religious originations there is another great flood of deception being proclaimed today that is deceiving the world and future generations on a global scale, this as many will have guessed is the worldwide teaching of evolution. This teaching denies the God of creation and is embraced and believed worldwide and not only does the global media, speak of it as scientific fact, but it is also taught in our schools as being scientifically proven.

NOTE: the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth is by no means limited to the teaching of salvation by works or the teaching of evolution, but embraces any message that entices people (Christian or secular) away from God, away from grace and away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE DRAGON, SATAN, THE DEVIL AND THE SERPENT

The character of the dragon, Satan and the devil is embraced and embodied in the serpent and the serpent is a liar and murder (Rev 12). It was the serpent who by lies spiritually murdered Adam and Eve (Gen. 3). Jesus himself calls the scribes and Pharisees a generation of vipers and serpents and tells them they are of their father the devil who is a liar and murder (John 8). In the following verses Jesus calls the Pharisees and Sadducees, vipers and serpents identifying them with the dragon, Satan the devil and serpent (a viper from Strong's Concordance refers to an adder or other 'poisonous' snake (a serpent)).

- When Jesus saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! (Matt. 3:7).
- Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).
- Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "You serpents you brood of vipers." (Matthew 23:33).

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Jesus is basically calling the religious leaders of his generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) devils, serpents and Satan's. It would be proper and right to liken these religious leaders as a collective group to a fierce evil dragon that has flames of fire coming out of his mouth destroying everything in its path and by extension it is proper and right to apply this picture to any organization or government (religious or secular) of all generations who has great power and influence and is hostile toward the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom. For further information see the titles: "Dragon" and the title, "Serpent" in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU)

REVELATION 20:1-3

THE DRAGON THE OLD SERPENT THE DEVIL AND SATAN

- **Revelation 20:1-3:** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The words that old serpent takes the mind of the ardent Bible student immediately back to the serpents' deception of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This verse shines a spotlight on the truth that the serpent is the same entity as the great dragon called the devil and Satan. The Bible speaks of knowing the depths of Satan (Rev. 2:24) the bottomless

pit and the depth of Satan can be seen as the personification of the extreme depths of evil and of the pride of man or the extreme evil that the mind of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) can sink to. The flesh is capable of tremendous evil and horror to satisfy its lust for its own pleasure and to gain things it sets its affections and cravings on. It is the heart of man that is the bottomless pit that evil ascends from. The dragon embraces all the evil character of the serpent, the devil and Satan. These titles are all different aspects of the same entity which is the mind of the flesh and the pride of man manifested in all its various forms of wickedness, not only throughout the entire history of mankind but also during Christ's glorious millennial reign on earth. During Christ's millennial reign anything that is contrary or opposed to God's law will not be tolerated it is in this sense that the dragon that old serpent which is the devil and Satan are bound during Christ glorious millennial Kingdom age.

It means that the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) will be greatly limited and unable to manifest its evil sinful and rebellious ways. The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan are bound for a thousand years, means all the evil of the human heart, the mind, the flesh and the pride of man will be restrained by Christ when he rules as King of kings and Lord of lords during his Kingdom age over all the nations of the world with great authority (a rod of iron) and with those who have been resurrected and gathered to him. The flesh and the pride of man refer to that spirit and will of man that is hostile toward God and His laws and commandments. Evil, rebellion, oppression, greed and such like things will not be tolerated during the new age of Christ's Kingdom. It is in this sense the dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan which are all different aspects of the same entity (the pride of man and the mind of the flesh that is opposed to God and the Lord Jesus Christ are bound. It means that they will not be able to do the evil sinful and rebellious things the flesh (self, pride, ego and greed, etc.), desires and craves to do.

For further information see the titles:

- Leviathan.
- Satan.
- Devil.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

GENESIS 3:14-15

INTRODUCTION: though the following verses are in Genesis chapter one I have chosen to leave them until now because they not only contain an amazing and glorious prophecy that speaks of the head of the serpent being bruised, but also take us to the serpents' final end.

GOD, WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THE WOMAN'S SEED AND THE SERPENTS SEED

- **Genesis 3:14-15:** The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed in KJV) and her offspring (seed in KJV); he (the woman's seed) shall bruise your head, and you (the serpent's seed) shall bruise his heel."

In the New Testament when John the Baptist saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them:

- You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (Matthew 3:7).

And Jesus said to the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes the religious rulers of his generation:

- You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (Matthew 23:33).

It was these religious leaders who plotted the murder of Jesus and who aggressively set about to destroy the church and brutally and cruelly persecute, torture, imprison and put to death those who followed the Lord. They were the seed of the serpent that bruised the heel of the Lord. The Lord (the seed of the woman) bruised the head of the serpent by his death and resurrection. Jesus death and resurrection totally stripped the religious rulers of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) of their power over the people. Christ's death and resurrection abolished the need for the temple, the priesthood, the sacrifices and the need to strictly adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping the Jewish religious customs and traditions. No one today needs a human priest, the only priest anyone seeking God needs today is the Lord Jesus Christ he is God's eternal and perfect High Priest for all who are seeking salvation and eternal life and for all who belong to God's Kingdom. It is in this sense Jesus the seed of the woman bruised the head of the serpent.

But this is not the ultimate and final crushing of the head of the serpent, the final crushing of the serpents head will be when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

SUMMARY OF THE SERPENT

The serpent was the most glorious of all animals created by God (Gen. 3:1) that had the ability to communicate with Adam and Eve. From the time of the serpents' great deception it became the symbol of all deception that is a result of beauty, enchantment, cunning, fascination and wisdom that appears to the human mind to make sense, but is in reality destructive. The serpent spirit seduces and entices its victims and appeals to them:

- By enticing, alluring and attracting them by flattery, glamour, charm and charisma.
- By skillful and brilliant oratory and calculated emotional speeches.
- By bribes, gifts and false promises.
- By twisting and distorting the Scriptures so that they appeal to self, ego and pride.

The serpent is a symbol of:

- False teachers who use flattery, charm and clever speech to lure brothers and sisters in Christ away from their faith and away from what is right and good.
- People who twist and distort the Scriptures and thereby subtly deceive the mind of those seeking God.
- Those who by cunning and craftiness use false, deceptive and misleading wisdom that appears to be plausible to the human mind, but is destructive.
- People who cause strife and contention amongst the body of Christ.

All of the serpents' evil, sinful and corrupt attitudes, abilities and skills dwell in the depths of the human heart and mind and ascend out of them. In the book of Revelation, the serpent is identified as the same entity as the great dragon that has the character of the devil and Satan. The serpents' primary character is cunning by spiritual and physical beauty, but has all the same evil, deceptive rebellious qualities of the dragon, the devil and Satan. The serpent is the personification of the mind of the flesh (self, ego pride and greed etc.) and the evil in the depths of the human heart that presents itself as a charming person who not only appears to be a good person, but also appears to have the best interest of others as their focus, but underneath have all sorts of other agenda's that will advance their own selfish dreams and corrupt and wicked goals. The character and nature of the dragon, Satan and the devil are all embraced in the serpent and the Bible says, the serpent is a liar and murder (Rev.12). It was the serpent who spiritually murdered Adam and Eve, by cunning and deception (Genesis 3). Jesus not only stated that the father of the Pharisees and scribes was the devil who is also a liar and murder from the beginning (John 8), but also said they were a generation of serpents and vipers (a poisonous creature) identifying them with the serpent of Genesis. The following Scriptures shine a spotlight on the truth that the Pharisees and Sadducees (the religious leaders of Jesus generation) were serpents and vipers:

- John the Baptist when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, said to them, "You brood of vipers!" (Matt. 3:7).

- Jesus answered the Pharisees saying: “You brood of vipers!’ How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34).
- Jesus said to the Pharisees: “You serpents you brood of vipers! How are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (Matt. 23:33).

Both John the Baptist and Jesus liken the character of the Pharisees (the religious leaders of their generation) to that of a poisonous serpent.

For further information see the titles:

- Dragon.

In, Satan and his family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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