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**Serpents  
Lions, Vipers  
and  
Scorpions**

(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.



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.

## Serpents, Lions, Vipers and Scorpions.

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### Topics.

- You will trample serpents and lions underfoot.
- Serpents, vipers, and scorpions.

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### YOU WILL TRAMPLE SERPENTS AND LIONS UNDERFOOT

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- **Psalm 91:13:** You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**Lions:** the fury of powerful kings and nations that are enemies to Israel are often portrayed as a lion, because lions are the king of beasts, fierce, have great strength and tear their prey apart without mercy.

**Young lions:** speak of nations that are rising-up in power that also have the potential to be great and powerful enemies to Israel.

**Serpent and adders:** signify the most cunning, sly, devious, and deadly of creatures as the following verses show:

Zophar speaking of the godless and wicked said:

- **Job 20:14:** Their food is turned in their stomach; it is the venom of cobras within them.

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In this context the serpent (cobra) refers to the wicked and the godless who speak words of flattery, charm, and deception to achieve their evil plan.

- **Psalm 58:4:** They have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear, (Psalm 58:4).

Here the serpent refers to violent and wicked judges of Israel who no doubt twisted and perverted justice for their own gain. When rebuking the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees) Jesus said:

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

Serpents speak of those who use flattery and charm to achieve their own selfish agendas. It especially applies to ministers and priests who twist and pervert the Scriptures to their own advantage and by their clever speeches use their followers as merchandise to line their own pockets with worldly riches.

**You will trample all these underfoot:** because God has commanded His angels to guard you in all your ways, many times God not only sent His angel before the armies of Israel to give them triumphant victory over their enemies, but also sent his angels to guide and lead them and to protect and comfort them. In the same way God surrounds the faithful with angels to comfort and keep them for eternal life. Treading on the lion

and the serpent carry the idea that those who trust in the LORD will be safe among dangers. They may hear the roaring of the lion, but it is as though his fieriness is restrained. They maybe amongst serpents but for them it is as though their poisonous tooth is extracted so that no matter what comes against the faithful, nothing can destroy their salvation or rob them of their eternal inheritance.

### **In the glorious Kingdom age to come we are told:**

- The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra (asp in KJV), and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. (Isaiah 11:8).

Cobra, asps, or serpents it matters not since they are all deadly poisonous. The symbolism here is that when Christ returns in glory to gather the faithful to him and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy, and peace on earth, even the fiercest of enemies will be harmless to the faithful in God's holy Kingdom.

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## **SERPENTS, VIPERS AND SCORPIONS**

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Jesus said to his eleven apostles:

- They will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mark 16:18).

Luke records as similar conversation:

- The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go ---- NOW GO TO VERSE SEVENTEEN ---- <sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:1-20).

**Scorpion:** comes from the Greek word *skorpios* and means to pierce from a sting.

Jesus told the eleven apostles and the seventy-two disciples that they will not only tread on serpents and scorpions, but also be able to drink poison and it will not hurt them, yet there is no mention in Scripture of the seventy-two or the apostles drinking poison or treading on serpents and scorpions other than Paul getting bittern by one. So, what did Jesus mean? Jesus told the seventy-two disciples not be amazed that the spirits are subject to them. The spirits he was referring to in the context of this conversation are the serpents and scorpions who are under the power of the enemy. At this time disciples had proclaimed the Gospel and many who were under the power of the enemy of God have responded and accepted Christ.

The serpents and scorpions in this context refer to any wicked or corrupt person, government or influence on the mind that would hinder a person from responding to the Gospel. In Jesus generation this would particularly apply to the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes) who had the religious power and authority over the people of Israel, but were so prideful, legalistic, and hypocritical that they had made it almost impossible for those seeking God to find Him. The, following verses of Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament) also gives some insight since Malachi uses similar language.

- **Malachi 4:2-3:** You who fear my name, the sun of righteousness (echoing Jesus) shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

In these verses Malachi tells us that all who fear God will tread down the wicked underfoot and that they will be as ashes under their feet. This is the same as saying, "They will tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy."

The writer of the following Psalm uses similar language:

- **Psalm 91:11-16:** He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. <sup>14</sup>"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. <sup>15</sup>When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honour him. <sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

The lion, the adder and the serpent in this context are symbols of:

- Power and authority.
- Deceit and cunning.
- The devil and Satan.

When Jesus said to the eleven apostles and the seventy-two disciples, "I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." He was telling them the following two things:

1. If they are proclaiming his name those that are prideful, arrogant, and wicked will have no power over them in regards to their salvation and eternal life no matter how much authority and power they may have.
2. If they go into the synagogues of Satan, pagan temples, and dwell amongst the wicked to proclaim the Lord's name none of these things will have any influence over them to destroy their relationship with Christ or their eternal salvation.

**It is interesting to notice:** when Jesus spoke of the Pharisees and Sadducees (the corrupt religious leaders of his generation) he said:

- You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (Matt. 3:7).
- You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? (Matt. 12:34).
- You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (Matt. 23:33).

**Viper:** in these verses comes from the Greek word *echidna*, and means and adder or another poisonous snake (literal or figurative).

The chief priests, Pharisees and scribes believed they were right before God because they descend from Abraham, served in the temple, and strictly adhered to the ceremonial rites and holy days and kept all the religious Jewish customs and traditions, but they were hypocrites, they said one thing, but did another, all their outward deeds were done to appear holy, but inwardly they had the same murderous spirit as their fathers who killed the prophets. We know this because they not only

plotted to kill Jesus the Son of God, but also aggressively set out to persecute, flog, kill, and crucify the New Testament prophets and anyone confessing the name of Jesus. The chief priests, Pharisees and scribes would say one thing and appeared to be righteous on the outside, but their actions told a totally different story is it any wonder Jesus called them serpents and vipers.

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For further information see the title:

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