

## LIVING ABOVE THE SNAKE LINE

Many people who live in the high hills and mountains claim there is a height beyond which snakes simply cannot live. When they go beyond this height, they cannot avoid death. It is referred to simply as the “snake line”. They allege that snakes will freeze at these higher elevations because they are cold-blooded creatures and cannot regulate their body temperature. Some herpetologists claim the “snake line” is an urban legend and snakes can live up to 15,000 feet up a mountain. Other herpetologists say that it is true and that snakes cannot live above 9,000 feet. Whether the actual snake line exists or not, it is true that some people deliberately seek to buy property at higher elevations so they can avoid encounters with these reptiles.

Of course, the snake line I am referring to is a physical one. But we, as Christians, should always be aware that there is a spiritual snake line, too, and we would all do well to live above it because that Great Serpent, Satan the Devil, can be deadly to us spiritually. He would like nothing better than to bring us down to his level...below the snake line.

God inspired the writer of Revelation to document the extent of Satan’s great powers and ability.

Revelations 12:9: “So the great dragon was thrown down. The old snake, who is called the devil and Satan, **the deceiver of the whole world**, was thrown down to the earth; and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Satan can transfer himself into an “angel of light” and dupe us into thinking what is good is bad and what is bad is good.

II Corinthians 11:13-15: “Such people are false apostles and dishonest workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> It is no great surprise then that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.” We should be asking God daily for spiritual power and perception so we will not be deceived by him.

Many reptiles have beautiful patterns and colors on their bodies. Someone who is not acquainted with how dangerous they can be might be attracted to them by their appearance. Satan can also present a pleasing appearance, and he has a smooth and seductive way of talking to those who are unaware of his treacherous personality and intense hatred of mankind. Christ knew the true Satan and rebuked him soundly.

Matthew 4:10: “Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, **Satan!** For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” Christ can also recognize Satan in us and, in love, reprimand us for our own good. That’s what He did to Peter in

Matthew 16:23: “But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, **Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

In the 1960’s, there was a popular song by Al Wilson called “The Snake”. It had a catchy tune and lyrics, but it also had a moral behind it. I am not going to sing the song, but I will read it as a poem:

**On her way to work one morning, down the path alongside the lake,  
A tender-hearted woman saw a poor half-frozen snake.  
His pretty colored skin had been all frosted with the dew.  
"Oh well," she cried, "I'll take you in and I'll take care of you".**

**She wrapped him up all cozy in a comforter of silk,  
And then laid him by the fireside with some honey and some milk.  
She hurried home from work that night, and as soon as she arrived,  
She found that pretty snake she'd taken in had been revived.**

**She clutched him to her bosom. "You're so beautiful," she cried,  
"But if I hadn't brought you in, by now you might have died".  
Now she stroked his pretty skin, and she kissed and held him tight,  
But instead of saying thanks, that snake gave her a vicious bite**

**"I saved you," cried that woman, and you've bit me even, why?  
You know your bite is poisonous, and now I'm going to die"  
"Oh shut up, silly woman," said the reptile with a grin.  
"You knew darn well I was a snake before you brought me in".**

Even if you have been bitten by a venomous snake, there are anti-venom solutions that can counteract the effects of the poison if you get to a hospital and begin treatment soon enough. Satan’s bite can scar, disable or even kill us. Thankfully, God has a spiritual anti-venom solution of His own: Repentance followed by forgiveness, with the sure and certain knowledge that God is with us every step of the way during our spiritual journey.

Philippians 1:6: “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

Speaking to the Jews who sought to kill Him, Jesus told them in

John 8:44: “You are of *your* father **the** devil, and **the** desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in **the** truth, because **there** is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks **from** his own *resources*, for he is a liar and **the** father of it.”

He is still a murderer, and he wants to murder us spiritually.

I Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.”

What should we do to insure we do not become one of Satan’s victims?

James 4:7-10: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”