

will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

D. Take Thoughts Captive

2 Corinthians 10:4-5NKJV - 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Romans 12:2 NKJV - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. [the mind of Christ]

Proverbs 4:23 NKJV - Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

E. Wield the Sword

Ephesians 6:11, 17NKJV - 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We have been given a powerful weapon – the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and we must learn how to release it through worship, proclamations and decrees.

Psalms 103:20 NKJV - Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.

Jesus Christ, Himself is the Word - the Mighty Warrior.

Revelation 19:11-15 NKJV - 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean,* followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword...

CONCLUSION

Romans 16:19-20 NKJV - 19 Stay alert like this, 20 and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus!

EXPOSING THE “SERPENT OF OLD”

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INTRODUCTION

In Genesis Satan is depicted as a serpent...more cunning, crafty and subtle than any other creature. In Revelation Satan is described as “the serpent of old.” Satan uses serpent-like qualities to accomplish his destructive purposes.

I. BIBLICAL AND MYTHICAL PYTHON

Acts 16:16-18 – NKJV 16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

In the original Greek a spirit of divination = the “spirit of python.”

Greek mythology: The Greek god Apollo descended from Olympus in order to select a site for his shrine and oracle.

The spot he chose was said to be guarded by a large, python, which he slew with an arrow.

Apollo became called Pythius and became celebrated as the foreteller of future events; the god of prophecy.

The term python came to denote a prophetic demon, or “a familiar spirit” such as with the witch of EnDor that Saul went to, or of soothsayers who practiced ventriloquism - speaking from the belly.

Divination: The art of obtaining secret knowledge, especially for the future, and it is the pagan counterpart of prophecy. Witchcraft was founded on python worship.

II. NATURAL PYTHONS

Pythons are large non-poisonous snakes that can grow up to 30 feet or so and can weigh 200-250 lbs.

When a python attacks, it wraps itself around the victim with one or more coils of its body. With each breath the victim takes the coils tighten slowly suffocating the victim.

After killing their prey they swallow them whole and digest them over a period of days. They can swallow pigs, goats, sheep, antelope etc.

III. EXPOSING THE “SERPENT OF OLD”

There are individuals and churches that the enemy has subtly wrapped himself around, whispering in their ears, and all the while constricting, squeezing and choking the life of God out of them.

A. Whispering Words

Serpent/Snake in Hebrew comes from a primitive root OT:5172 properly, to hiss, i.e. whisper a (magic) spell; generally, to prognosticate (or to predict).

Satan projects his voice into our thoughts deceiving and seducing us with his whispering.

The enemy is always casting doubt and suspicion on God’s word – and if we listen long enough we will be deceived and lose heart and give up.

B. Coils of Control

Witchcraft and divination are all about control and manipulation.

Sometimes the enemy ambushes you by surrounding you with people who intimidate and manipulate which causes fear and shuts you down; or with religious people who withhold freedom; or the law which is never satisfied and demands performance and works.

Galatians 3:1, 3 NKJV - O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you... 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

C. Constricting Hope

One of the enemy’s greatest tactics is to grip our hearts with discouragement, causing depression, a sense of hopelessness and despair.

Proverbs 12:25 NKJV – Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 13:12 NKJV – Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

D. Suffocating Life

His strategy is to crush and suffocate the fire and life of God out of you by squeezing out your hope because he knows if he can get your hope he will steal your destiny.

Proverbs 29:18 NKJV - Where there is no revelation, [vision, dream, sight] the people cast off restraint [perish, run wild]

Numbers 13:33 NKJV - There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

Anak – comes from the root word meaning “a necklace (as if strangling).”

John 10:10 NKJV -The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

IV. BREAKING FREE FROM THE “SERPENT OF OLD”

A. Be Vigilant

1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV - 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

B. Remember Hope’s Foundations

God’s Love

Romans 5:5 NKJV - Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

God’s Presence

John 14:16-18 NKJV - 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

God’s Word

Romans 15:4 NKJV - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

C. Renounce Divination

Renounce and repent of all involvement in horoscopes, Ouija boards, tarot card reading, psychic hotlines, etc...anything that did not depend upon the Holy Spirit for instruction and guidance.

John 16:13-14 NKJV - 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He