**R1043 - Rumination for January 26, 2025**

The **T**heme: **The Year of the Serpent** (**C**NY **C**ommences on 29th Jan. 2025)[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *And as Moses lifted up the* ***Serpent*** *in the wilderness, so must the* ***S****on of Man be lifted up.* Jn. 3:14

The **T**hots:

The **C**hinese **C**elebrate their New Year this year as the “Year of the **S**erpent” following their Zodiac **C**alendar.

1. **The Serpent in Creation Order.**
2. The “*Serpent*” as **D**efined in **W**ebster’s **D**ictionary:
3. **A**rchaic: obnoxious creature that creeps, hisses, or stings; snake;
4. **A**nother Sense: devil; a treacherous person
5. The “***S****erpent*” as **D**epicted in the **W**ord of God is **S**atan: Rev. 12:9

*And the Great* ***D****ragon was thrown down, that ancient* ***S****erpent, who is called the* ***D****evil*

*and* ***Satan****, the* ***D****eceiver of the* ***W****hole* ***W****orld —*

1. The **S**erpent’s **D**eception of the **W**oman using the **W**ays of the **World**, **D**efined as: I Jn. 2:15-17

***For all that is in the World: the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life…***

Cf. How the Serpent Tempted the **W**oman with the **W**ays of the **W**orld: Gen. 3:1-**6**

1. Lust of the Flesh *- the woman saw that the tree was* ***good for food***
2. Lust of the Eyes - *and that it was ﻿pleasant to the* ***eyes***
3. Lust for the Pride of Life - *and a tree to be desired to make one* ***wise***

*She took of the fruit thereof, ﻿and did eat, and gave also unto her husband* (Adam) *with her; and he did eat*

1. Thus, the **S**erpent’s **P**unishment was **P**assed **D**own the Ages – *And the Lord God said…* Gen. 3:14-16
2. *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: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and ﻿her seed; ﻿it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
3. *Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; ﻿and thy desire shall be ﻿to thy husband, and he shall ﻿rule over thee.*
4. Unto the **W**hole **W**orld: *Wherefore, as by one man* [Adam, representing Eve and all men] *sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* Rom. 5:12
5. **Cf. God’s “Solution” Order to Israel’s Sin Problem in the Wilderness – Num. 21:5-8**
6. When Israel **S**poke and **S**inned against God in the Wilderness Journey:

*Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread,*

*neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.*

1. God **S**ent **S**erpents to **S**ting them:

*The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

1. Finally, God’s **S**olution to those who would Respond to what God **S**aid:

*And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery* ***S****erpent, and* ***S****et it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*

1. Today, this is how God **S**olves the **S**in Problem and Restores the **S**inner to Himself. Jn. 3:14, 15

*And as Moses lifted up the* ***S****erpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

*that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.*

1. **How the Lord Himself Overcame Satan, the Serpent, in the Wiles of the World**

**with the Word of God *–* The Saviour Ordered Satan: *“It is written…”* Matt. 4:4-10**

**S**atan, the **S**erpent, tempted the **S**aviour in **S**imilar fashion as he tempted the Woman: Cf. I Jn. 2:15-17

The **S**aviour Referred to the **S**criptures. He said: *It is written…*

1. **S**atan’s **S**erpentine **T**emptation of the Lord with the **W**ays of the **W**orld in the **W**ilderness: Mt. 4:1-10

*Then was ﻿Jesus led up of ﻿the* ***S****pirit into the* ***W****ilderness to be tempted of the Devil.* [He used the…]

1. Lust of the Flesh – *The tempter came and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God,*

(Mt. 4:3, 4) *command these stones to become loaves of bread.*

1. Lust of the Eyes – *The devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him*

(Mt. 4:8-9) *all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him,*

*“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”*

1. Lust for the Pride of Life – *The devil taketh Him up into ﻿the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle*

(Mt.4:5, 6) *of the temple, And saith unto Him, If Thou be ﻿the Son of God, cast Thyself down:*

*for it is written, ﻿He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.*

1. The **S**aviour’s **S**trategy in overcoming the **S**erpent’s **T**aunts: Mt. 4:1-10
2. The **S**erpent’s **T**aunt – *If Thou be ﻿the* ***S****on of God…* Mt. 4:3, 6
3. The **S**aviour Response to the **T**emptation – He Referred to the **W**ord: *“It is Written…”* Mt. 4, 7, 10

*Deceived by subtle snares of hell, Adam, our head, our father, fell;*

*When Satan, in the serpent hid, Proposed the fruit that God forbid.*

*Death was the threatening: death began To take possession of the man;*

*His unborn race received the wound, And heavy curses smote the ground.* Isaac Watts

**P**oints To **P**onder: In this Year of the Serpent, Let not his **W**iles and his **W**ays of the **W**orld Lead you A**W**ay!

*A* ***B****lessed and* ***B****ountiful* ***C****oming* ***C****hinese New Year*

*to all the* ***C****hinese* ***B****rethren in the* ***C****hurch of God.*

1. **The Subsequent Order for the Serpent’s Downfall in the Future:**
2. The **D**evid will be cast **D**own from Heaven. Rev. 12:9

*The great* ***D****ragon was thrown* ***D****own, that ancient serpent, who is called the* ***D****evil and Satan, the* ***D****eceiver of the whole world—he was thrown* ***D****own to the earth, and his angels were thrown* ***D****own with him.*

1. The **D**ragon will be **B**ound in the **B**ottomless Pit for 1000 Years. Rev. 20:2

*He seized the* ***D****ragon, that ancient serpent, who is the* ***D****evil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*

1. The **D**evil’s **F**inal **D**estiny will be the Lake of **F**ire. Rev. 21:15

*And whosoever was not* ***F****ound written in ﻿the book of life ﻿was cast into the lake of* ***F****ire.*

Follow not the Devil in this Year of the Serpent;

Look upon Him Who bore your Sin on the Cross and be Saved..