

Gemsbok Antelope – Part 3

Keen Senses: Developing Spiritual Sight

Key Theme: Alertness vs. Unawareness

Key Verse:

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation." — Mark 14:38

Introduction

In our previous lessons from the Gemsbok Antelope, we learned about meditation through the antelope's ruminating nature. Just as the antelope chews its cud repeatedly, believers are to meditate on God's Word until it becomes part of their thinking and living.

In this lesson, we continue our journey by learning another valuable spiritual principle from the Gemsbok Antelope: **keen senses**, particularly the sense of **sight**. The antelope survives because it remains alert to danger. Likewise, Christians must develop spiritual alertness to recognize temptation and respond according to God's Word.

This teaching is based on the characteristics of the Gemsbok Antelope and the spiritual truths they illustrate.

I. The Gemsbok's Keen Vision

The Gemsbok's eyes are positioned on the sides of its head, allowing it to see danger from many directions. Its horizontal pupils provide a wide field of vision, helping it remain aware of predators.

Spiritual Application

God wants believers to develop spiritual awareness.

Alertness is:

Being aware of what is taking place around us so we can respond correctly.

Many Christians get into trouble not because they lack information, but because they become spiritually unaware.

Questions to Consider

- What am I looking at?
- What influences are entering through my eyes?
- Am I spiritually alert or spiritually distracted?

II. The Battle for the Eyes

1 John 2:16

"For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."

One of Satan's greatest battlefields is what we see.

The enemy understands that what captures our attention often influences our thinking, and what influences our thinking eventually affects our actions.

Principle

Wrong thinking leads to wrong viewing.

Many people blame external circumstances for their temptations:

- The internet
- Television
- Magazines
- Other people

However, Scripture teaches that the real issue begins in the mind.
A computer does not cause pornography.
A magazine does not cause lust.
An advertisement does not cause covetousness.
The problem begins when wrong thinking is allowed to grow.

III. Renewing the Mind Changes What We See

Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."

Transformation begins with renewed thinking.

When our minds are renewed by God's Word:

- We view life differently.
- We recognize temptation sooner.
- We respond correctly.
- We discern God's will.

Important Truth

You cannot consistently see right until you begin thinking right.

The renewed mind develops spiritual sight.

IV. What Does It Mean to Have "Keen" Senses?

The teaching defines "keen" as:

- Quick responsiveness
- Intellectual alertness
- Penetrating understanding
- Sensitivity in perception
- Keen awareness

Spiritually Speaking

A believer with keen spiritual senses:

- Recognizes temptation quickly.
- Discerns truth from error.
- Detects spiritual danger.
- Responds according to Scripture.

The goal is not merely seeing more.

The goal is seeing correctly.

V. Jesus and the Temptation of Sight

Matthew 4:8-10

Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Notice:

The temptation was presented through sight.

Jesus saw everything Satan offered.

Yet He was not moved.

Why?

Because His thinking was already established in God's Word.

Lesson

Temptation is not defeated by avoiding sight alone.

Temptation is defeated through renewed thinking.

Jesus responded:

"It is written..."

His response came from Deuteronomy 6:13.

What He spoke revealed what He believed.

What He believed determined how He responded.

VI. Right Thinking Produces Right Responses

Proverbs 23:7

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Truth

Our actions are usually the fruit of our thoughts.

Wrong actions begin with wrong thoughts.

Right actions begin with right thoughts.

Jesus resisted Satan because His heart was filled with truth.

When temptation came, Scripture came out.

Personal Application

When pressure comes:

- What comes out of your mouth?
- What thoughts dominate your mind?
- What Scriptures are available to you?

Meditation stores God's Word in the heart before temptation arrives.

VII. Jesus Understands Our Struggles

Hebrews 2:18

"Because He Himself has suffered being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted."

Jesus is not distant from our struggles.

He understands:

- Temptation
- Pressure
- Testing
- Trials

Because He overcame, He can help us overcome.

Encouragement

You are never fighting temptation alone.

Jesus stands ready to assist those who call upon Him.

VIII. Three Powerful Scriptures for Every Believer

The teaching highlights three foundational passages that help protect the believer's mind and spiritual sight. These are emphasized as essential verses for those who are born again.

#1 Romans 13:14

Make No Provision

"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh."

Provision means planning ahead for failure.

Spiritual victory often comes from removing opportunities for temptation.

Ask yourself:

- What am I allowing into my life?
 - What habits are feeding my flesh?
 - What boundaries need strengthening?
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#2 1 Peter 1:13-16

Gird Up Your Mind

"Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance."

Peter teaches us that holiness begins with disciplined thinking.

The Greek word for "conformed" refers to molding one's life according to a pattern.

Application

Do not allow:

- Culture
- Entertainment
- Peer pressure
- Old habits

to shape your thinking.

Let God's Word shape your mind.

#3 1 Peter 2:11

Recognize the War

"Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."

There is a battle taking place:

- Against your mind
- Against your will
- Against your emotions

The enemy seeks to gain access through unchecked desires.

Spiritual alertness helps us recognize these attacks before they gain strength.

IX. What Is the Devil Showing You?

Here is an important question:

What is the devil showing us?

Today it may be:

- Internet temptations
- Materialism
- Covetousness
- Fear
- Unforgiveness
- Pride
- Worldly success without God

The issue is not merely what is displayed.

The issue is how we respond.

Jesus saw the kingdoms of the world and remained faithful.

Can we do the same?

X. Restoring Others While Guarding Ourselves

Galatians 6:1

"Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted."

When helping others:

- Be compassionate.
- Be gentle.
- Be humble.
- Stay alert.

Spiritual pride blinds people to their own vulnerabilities.

The spiritually mature remains watchful.

Conclusion

The Gemsbok Antelope teaches us the value of keen senses. Just as it survives through alert vision, believers survive spiritually through alertness and renewed thinking.

Key Lessons

1. What we see affects us.
2. What we think determines how we respond.
3. Renewed minds produce spiritual discernment.
4. Jesus overcame temptation through God's Word.
5. We must make no provision for the flesh.
6. We must guard our minds from worldly conformity.
7. Fleshly desires wage war against the soul.
8. Spiritual alertness leads to spiritual victory.

Final Challenge

Ask yourself:

- What am I looking at?
- What am I thinking about?
- What am I allowing to shape my mind?
- Am I developing keen spiritual sight?

Like the Gemsbok Antelope, may we remain alert, discerning danger early, and responding according to God's Word so that we walk in victory and fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

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