

Gemsbok Antelope – Part 4

Protected on Every Side: Developing Spiritual Hearing and Awareness

Introduction

In our previous lessons, we have been learning valuable spiritual truths from the Gemsbok Antelope, one of the most well-known species of antelope. Like cattle and sheep, antelopes are ruminants that chew the cud, reminding us of the importance of meditating on God's Word until it becomes part of our lives.

We have also focused on the antelope's keen senses, especially its eyesight. The antelope's eyes are positioned to give it a broad field of vision, allowing it to detect danger both in front and behind. Spiritually speaking, believers cannot physically see everything around them, but God has provided protection and spiritual awareness through His Word and Spirit.

Key Principle:

To change what we see, look at, or view, we need to change our thinking.

1. God Protects Us in Front and Behind

The antelope can see danger approaching from multiple directions. While we do not have eyes behind our heads, God sees what we cannot see.

Isaiah 52:12

"For the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard."

God's protection is not limited to what lies ahead. He watches over our future and guards our past. He goes before us to prepare the way and stands behind us to protect us from unseen attacks.

Application

Many believers worry about:

- Future problems
- Past mistakes
- Unknown dangers
- Spiritual attacks

God's promise is that He covers both directions. What we cannot see, He already sees.

2. The Principle of Protection Through the Blood

The Old Testament gives us a powerful picture of divine protection.

Exodus 12:13

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

The Israelites were protected from judgment because they obeyed God's instructions and applied the blood of the lamb to their houses.

Notice two important elements:

A. The Blood

The blood was the means of protection.

B. Obedience

The blood only protected those who obeyed God's instructions.

Faith and obedience always work together.

3. Harmony and Obedience Bring Protection

The Passover account reveals something else.

Entire households worked together in obedience to God's commands. There was unity, cooperation, and faith.

Lesson

When families and believers walk together in obedience:

- Protection increases.
- Spiritual strength grows.
- God's purposes are fulfilled.

God blesses unity and obedience.

4. The New Testament Fulfillment

The blood of the Passover lamb pointed forward to Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:11

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb..."

The Questions

- Are believers protected by blood today?
- Whose blood protects us?

The answer is clear:

The Blood of Jesus Christ.

His blood provides:

- Forgiveness
 - Redemption
 - Victory over the enemy
 - Spiritual protection
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5. Our Body Is God's Temple

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..."

The Bible teaches that our bodies are now God's temple.

Just as the homes in Egypt were protected by the blood, believers are called to live under the provision and protection of Christ.

Practical Lesson

We should treat our bodies as:

- God's house
- God's temple
- God's dwelling place

This requires obedience, holiness, and dedication.

6. We Have Unseen Enemies

One reason the antelope depends on its keen senses is because predators are constantly searching for an opportunity to attack.

Likewise, believers face unseen spiritual opposition.

Ephesians 6:12

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..."

Our battle is not merely natural. There is a spiritual conflict taking place around us.

Therefore, spiritual awareness is essential.

We Need:

- Discernment
- Prayer
- God's Word
- Obedience
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit

These spiritual senses help us recognize danger before it overtakes us.

7. Developing the Sense of Hearing

The Gemsbok Antelope not only possesses excellent vision but also acute hearing and smell.

These senses help it survive in dangerous environments.

Spiritual Hearing

Just as physical hearing warns an antelope of danger, spiritual hearing helps believers recognize God's voice.

Romans 10:17

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

The more we hear God's Word:

- The stronger our faith becomes.
 - The clearer His voice becomes.
 - The safer our spiritual walk becomes.
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8. Guard What You Listen To

The lesson concludes by reminding us that songs and sounds from our past can awaken old memories and influences.

Everything we listen to affects us.

Questions to Consider

- Does what I listen to strengthen my faith?
- Does it draw me closer to God?
- Does it bring peace or confusion?
- Does it remind me of my old life or encourage my new life in Christ?

Philippians 4:8

"Think on these things..."

Believers must be intentional about what enters their minds through their ears.

Conclusion

The Gemsbok Antelope teaches us several powerful spiritual lessons:

1. Meditate on God's Word continually.
2. Develop keen spiritual senses.
3. Trust God's protection in front and behind. (All around)
4. Appreciate the power of the Blood of Jesus.
5. Walk in obedience.
6. Recognize unseen spiritual dangers.
7. Develop spiritual hearing.
8. Guard what enters your mind through your ears.

Final Thought

Just as the Gemsbok survives because of its alertness and keen senses, believers must remain spiritually alert. God has provided His Word, His Spirit, and the Blood of Jesus to protect us. As we learn to hear His voice and obey His guidance, we will avoid danger and walk safely in the path He has prepared for us. Amen.

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