

Gemsbok Antelope – Part 5

Keen Senses, Correct Thinking, and Spiritual Awareness

Opening Scripture:

Joshua 1:8

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night... then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Introduction

Throughout this series we have been learning spiritual lessons from the Gemsbok Antelope. The antelope survives in a dangerous environment because of its keen senses. In the same way, believers must develop spiritual awareness through meditation on God's Word, obedience, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

We have already learned:

- Meditation on God's Word leads to success.
- The antelope's keen eyesight helps it detect danger.
- To change what we see, we must change how we think.
- God provides complete protection through the blood of Jesus.
- We discussed the importance of spiritual hearing and being careful what we allow into our minds.

Today we will continue learning from the antelope's hearing and sense of smell.

I. Keen Senses Protect Us from Danger

The Gemsbok Antelope possesses sharp hearing and a keen sense of smell. These senses help it survive in open territory filled with predators.

Spiritual Principle

God wants believers to develop spiritual senses that help them recognize danger before it arrives.

Hebrews 5:14

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Spiritual maturity requires trained senses.

Key Truth

Keen senses + obedience = protection

Having spiritual awareness is not enough. We must obey what God reveals.

II. Be Careful What You Hear

Jesus taught an important principle regarding hearing.

Mark 4:24

"Take heed what ye hear..."

The Amplified Bible expands this thought by teaching that the amount of attention we give to something determines the amount of influence it will have in our lives.

Lesson

What we repeatedly hear eventually shapes our thinking.

The teaching uses music as an example:

- Songs can bring back memories.
- Old influences can be reactivated.
- Good or bad memories can be strengthened through repeated exposure.

Principle

More attention = More influence

Whatever receives our attention gains influence in our lives.

Ask yourself:

- What am I listening to?
- What voices have influence over me?
- Are those voices strengthening my faith or weakening it?

III. Stay Alert Even During Times of Rest

One of the most interesting observations about the Gemsbok Antelope is that it relies on its senses whether it is eating or resting.

Spiritual Application

Believers never completely go off duty spiritually.

This does not mean living in fear. It means living with awareness.

Examples:

- While on vacation.
- During recreation.
- During times of success.
- During times of relaxation.

We still need wisdom and discernment.

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Spiritual alertness should become a lifestyle.

IV. Keen Senses Must Be Joined with Correct Thinking

The teaching points out an important truth:

A thief can have keen eyesight and hearing, but still use those abilities for evil purposes.

Lesson

Having sharp senses alone is not enough.

We need:

1. Keen senses
2. Correct thinking
3. Godly motives

Romans 12:2

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Negative Example

A thief may:

- See opportunities to steal.
- Hear conversations that reveal weaknesses.
- Use information selfishly.

Positive Example

A believer should:

- See the needs of people.
- Hear what people are really saying.
- Recognize danger in someone's life.
- Take action to help them.

Spiritual maturity allows us to use our senses for God's purposes rather than selfish purposes.

V. The Power of Associations

The next lesson comes from the antelope's sense of smell.

Statement

Smell can take us to a location in our mind.

Many people have experienced a scent that immediately brought back memories from years ago.

Creating Positive Associations

The teaching uses popcorn as an illustration.

When popcorn is enjoyed during peaceful, healthy, enjoyable times, all five senses become involved:

- Hearing it pop
- Seeing it pop
- Smelling it
- Touching it
- Tasting it

Over time those experiences become associated with encouragement and peace.

Spiritual Application

Create positive spiritual associations.

Associate:

- Worship with peace.
- Prayer with comfort.
- God's Word with victory.
- Church fellowship with encouragement.
- The presence of God with joy.

When difficult times come, these associations help strengthen our faith.

VI. God Created All Five Senses

The Bible account of Isaac blessing Jacob demonstrates all five physical senses working together.

Sight

Genesis 27:1

Isaac's eyesight had become weak.

Taste

Genesis 27:9-10

Food was prepared for Isaac.

Touch

Genesis 27:11-12, 21-23

Jacob wore goat skins to imitate Esau's hairy skin.

Hearing

Genesis 27:18-20

Isaac listened to Jacob's voice.

Smell

Genesis 27:15-16, 27

Isaac smelled Esau's clothing and believed Jacob was Esau.

VII. Smell Can Deceive Us

The conclusion of the lesson reveals an important warning.

Although Isaac used his sense of smell, he was deceived. He smelled Esau's clothing and concluded that Jacob was Esau.

Spiritual Lesson

Natural senses are valuable, but they are not infallible.

Sometimes:

- What we see can deceive us.
- What we hear can deceive us.
- What we feel can deceive us.
- What we smell can deceive us.

Therefore

Believers must learn to rely on:

- God's Word
- The Holy Spirit
- Renewed thinking
- Spiritual discernment

2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Conclusion

The Gemsbok Antelope teaches us several powerful spiritual truths:

1. Keen senses help us avoid danger.
2. We must be careful what we hear.
3. Spiritual alertness should continue even during times of rest.
4. Keen senses must be combined with correct thinking.
5. Positive associations can strengthen our faith.
6. God gave us five senses, but they are not always reliable.
7. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit provide the ultimate guidance.

Final Thought

Keen senses may warn us of danger, but only God's truth can guide us safely through it.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

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