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They will trample on snakes

THE PYTHON SPIRIT



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2025 (English translation)

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— Chapter 1 —

Keep The Snake Out!



A - The destiny of human beings

When God created man, He created him male and female, and He entrusted him a very specific mission, given in Genesis chapter 1 and specified in Genesis 2.

In Genesis chapter 1 verse 26, God reveals His project:

*Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may **rule** [NKJV: **have dominion**] over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground". (Genesis 1:26)*

Man, created male and female, is made to rule over all the earth and everything on it. The Hebrew word for *rule* in this passage is *radah*.

This word is very strong, literally meaning: *subjugate, to crumble off, to have dominion, prevail against, reign, rule, take*. (Strong's No. 7287)

According to the French dictionary *Littré*, the oldest meaning of the word subjugate is "*to put under the yoke, to reduce to subjection, by*

armed force". In other words: total submission by force, particularly in a political or military context.

This word is used again by the Lord when He gives man His first instructions in verse 28, and amplified by the order to **subdue** the earth:

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue** it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."* (Genesis 1:28)

The word rule is again the word *radah*. The word subdue comes from the Hebrew word *kabash*, also extremely strong, which literally means: *to subdue, bring into bondage, subject, force, keep under, bring into subjection, to tread down, to conquer...* (Strong's No. 3533)

Why does He use such a strong word, involving violence if necessary, in a supposedly paradisiacal environment?

If we look back at the previous verses, all creation is perfect, including the animals.

Why must we *subjugate*, and therefore subdue – if necessary by force – a perfect creation that shows no sign of rebellion?

Obviously, there is something else.

In the following chapter, God places man in the garden not only to cultivate it, but also to *guard* it. This time, the Hebrew word *shamar* is used, meaning *to keep, watch, preserve* (Strong's No. 8104).

Against whom, or what, must man protect the garden, acting as a watchman? What is to be dominated, trampled underfoot, subdued, if need be by force of arms, so that creation can be subjugated to the Lord?

Of course, it is the serpent, who does not take long to enter the garden, taking advantage of Adam's negligence...

Genesis 1:2 tells us that in the beginning, the earth was *tohu and bohu*, meaning it was in a state of chaos, confusion and destruction. Rebellion and violent destruction must therefore have taken place prior to the restoration of order leading to the creation of the

heavens and the earth by the Lord in the following verses. For God does not create chaos.

In Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, we can read that Satan wanted to be God, rise above God, and was finally cast down, expelled from the holy mountain on which he used to be.

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (Isaiah 14:12)

Ezekiel describes him as a *protective cherub*: the king of Tyre referred to here is therefore not a human being but represents Satan.

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. (Ezekiel 28:14)

Cast down from heaven to earth like a meteor, Satan destroyed everything. He also led part of the army of heavenly creatures, now fallen like himself, into his rebellion and downfall.

So, the creation of man takes place in a context of rebellion and war. It is now up to him to bring the new creation under God's lordship, and he must begin his training by protecting the garden.

We know the outcome... Adam failed to fulfil his mission, the serpent entered the garden, first sowing doubt, then death and destruction.

But God does not stop there: in response to the fall, He lays down new rules and gives a promise. Speaking to the serpent, God says:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

Thus, the serpent becomes the declared enemy of the woman: there will be enmity between the two, in particular between their respective descendants, the offspring of the serpent and that of the woman.

The serpent will *strike the heel* of the woman's offspring, implying that he will attack from behind, in a subtle way. The word *heel* comes

from a word meaning *to follow at the heel, assail insidiously, circumvent, overreach, override* (Strong's No. 6117). The serpent attacks by setting snares.

As for the woman's offspring, they must crush his head. There is no negotiation, no compromise. This is what Jesus accomplished on the Cross, and He also gave us the power to do it.

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:19)

The word *authority* here is the Greek word *exousia*, which actually means *power to act* (Strong's No. 1849). It is an authority delegated by God, not a natural skill.

This brings us back to the first mission given to man in the Garden of Eden. Through Jesus, we have been given the authority to crush the snakes and all the power of the enemy. For what purpose?

Always the same: to bring creation back under the authority of God, its Creator, by guarding every area of His creation from the serpent's intrusion, starting with our own family and extending through our church to our nation.

And what happens if we do not?

The same causes produce the same consequences.

Adam failed in his mission: he did not watch over the garden; he did not discern the spirit that had taken hold of the serpent but let his wife talk with him. The consequence was that death and devastation entered creation.

And until now, the whole world is under the dominion of the devil and creation suffers and groans, as Paul says in Romans 8, waiting in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. (1 John 5:19)

The more precise meaning of this verse is that the world lies, or is laying, subjected to the power of evil.

When someone asks you why, if God is good, there is so much evil on earth... you will know what to answer. It was up to us human beings to guard the garden against the serpent's intrusion.

This mission now belongs to the church, redeemed by Christ, and it is to us, God's children, that Jesus speaks in Luke 10:19.

The authority to tread on serpents was not given to the world, that lies helpless under the power of the evil one, but to us, who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, delivered from the power of darkness and brought into His kingdom.

*...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** (Colossians 1:12-14)*

You will often find that when non-Christians stand up boldly against injustice, it is very hard for them to stand firm, because they have not been given the authority to do so, and some lose everything for the sake of truth and righteousness!

They do not have the authority, the ability to resist evil, to fight back and defeat it. However, if we become mature children of God, and therefore sons, this authority is given to us.

Sadly, the church has often lost interest in the affairs of this world and the mandate to subdue the earth, repeated by Jesus in Matthew 28, has been forgotten.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

I would like someone to explain to me how to obey this commandment given by Jesus, without getting involved in leadership in the various areas of society, and how to make disciples of all *nations* and teach them everything Jesus commanded, while

leaving education, media, culture, justice, politics and everything else in the hands of the world!

Jesus' teaching is not about how we should behave in heaven... but rather about how we should relate to each other on earth, and about the principles of good management and fair governance of the earth, not of heaven! In fact, this is what the apostles did, and this is how they were described:

These men who have caused trouble all over the world... (Acts 17:6)

By *world*, it is meant the entire inhabited earth of that time.

The Law of Moses applied to all areas of life and society.

It is up to us to expose the serpent, its mentality and its wiles, instead of letting it infect our culture, our government and our schools, to name but a few! It is our job to destroy its plans and purposes by crushing its head!

Yet to do so, we have to be able to discern it.

For not only has the church entrenched itself within its walls, leaving to the world the responsibility of educating the nations, but it has not even guarded its own garden from the serpent.

B - The importance of testing the spirits

In his first Epistle, chapter 4, the apostle John exhorts us to discern:

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)*

Test is the translation of the Greek word *dokimazō*, which means *to test, to prove, to examine, to approve* (Strong's No. 1381).

It comes from a root word which was used for the proving (testing) of coins, confirming they were genuine (not counterfeit, corrupted).

John clearly warns us not to put blind trust in every spirit, but rather to test them in order to distinguish between those that are of God and those that are not, just as we would test a banknote to see whether it is fake or genuine.

Paul gives this same warning to the Thessalonians, using exactly the same word:

*Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but **test** them all; hold on to what is good. (Thessalonians 5:19-21)*

Paul exhorts the Thessalonians not to quench the Spirit, and therefore to let Him speak, to pay attention to prophecies, but at the same time to test and discern, in all things.

It should be pointed out that in these two passages, there is no reference to the gift of discernment of spirits mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12. The gift of discerning spirits is a gift, and it is not given to everyone. The Greek word used in 1 Corinthians 12 is different.

In the above passages, it is not about exercising the gift of discernment, but about examining, testing the spirits, the gifts, in the light of Scripture, and by looking at the fruit that is produced.

In other words, do not accept every unusual manifestation indiscriminately just because it is supernatural!

And let us not forget that testing and examining is the personal responsibility of every child of God. It is not exclusively the responsibility of the pastor or the elders. Everyone is called to examine, to test the spirits, and will be held accountable if he has not done so and has let himself be misled.

The Berean Jews acted this way regarding Paul's teachings:

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

Please note this: it does not say that they were suspicious of Paul, nor that they sought to counter his teachings with the Word. This

attitude was typical of the religious Jews, who used the Scriptures as a weapon, their aim not being to understand but to counter Paul out of principle.

On the contrary, it is written that the Berean Jews received the teaching with great eagerness, which means with a willing, zealous heart, ready to put it into practice. It is written that their feelings were noble. It was in this mindset that they examined the Scriptures to make sure that what they were being told was true, before they embraced the message.

That is the right attitude to have.

Of course, we can also ask for the gift of discernment, which will also help us to sort things out. It is a very important and useful gift, and I do encourage you to pursue it.

But as with any gift, we must learn to exercise it. With time and practice, we can develop it and become increasingly accurate.

This is why, in all cases, it is essential to learn to examine everything in the light of Scripture and look at the fruits that are produced, in accordance with the exhortation of 1 John 4:1. So when I use the word *discern* in this book, I am generally referring to *examining* everything.

While I was writing this book, I rediscovered a teaching by Derek PRINCE which he gave in the 90s, perhaps even earlier. It was originally published under the title *Protection from deception, walking through the minefield of signs and wonders*.

In this excellent book, that I absolutely recommend reading, Derek PRINCE analyzes the reasons for the drifts of a certain number of charismatic movements that were clearly initiated by the Holy Spirit. These drifts have led to much confusion and division in the Body of Christ.

He believes that one of the causes is precisely the fact that the charismatic Christians think that everything supernatural comes from God. The mandate given by God through the apostles John and Paul has been forgotten. Everything is taken at face value.

“Don't worry, no problem if sorcerers or unclean spirits are speaking in the church, God will take care of them...”

Christians have learned to delegate. They have handed the baby over to God, so it is up to Him to guard the garden. And since He is almighty, He will not allow anything bad... “After all, it’s His church, isn’t?”

I think this attitude came in reaction to what was considered as religiosity, or in other words, not allowing the Holy Spirit any freedom. In some denominations, the Spirit of God was largely restricted, and could only be expressed within a specific framework and in a certain way, and not in any other way.

He could overflow a little, but not too much, and certainly not in a way that was too unusual, or bizarre.

So, in order to give Him total freedom and not take the risk of judging a manifestation that might come from Him, discernment was put aside. We accept whatever happens and we leave it to God to judge.

The problem is that when we stop discerning and examining, we leave the door wide open to unclean spirits pretending to be the Holy Spirit. As a result, many people are confused and lost. While some accept everything indiscriminately, others, shocked by certain forms of deviance, reject everything altogether.

In this way, Satan succeeds in discrediting God's work, because as a result of this mixture, what authentically comes from God is no longer accepted and is instead credited to the enemy.

In the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul makes it clear that we must: *“...keep Satan from taking advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes”*. (2 Corinthians 2:11, *Amplified Bible*)

So, we are not supposed to ignore the enemy's plans, and using this knowledge we must prevent him from gaining the upper hand.