

LESSONS FROM ANIMAL ATTACKS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Watching Animal Planet; Discovery Channel, or just listening to news, you see animal attacks on humans are not that uncommon.
 - 1. In California a woman killed by a pit bull in her apartment building.
 - 2. Infant in California bitten in face by coyote while on front porch.
- B. Animal attacks in Scriptures, as well, with a lesson behind each.
- C. Let's look at a few and the attendant lessons

DISCUSSION:

I. BITEN BY SERPENTS - ISRAELITES (Complainers) Num 21:4-9

- A. Freed from bondage of Egypt, Israelites in wilderness began to complain about what God provided them.
- B. Must not complain, in doing so, we test God. 1Cor 10:1-11
- C. Complaining is simply forbidden. Phil 2:14
- D. Complaining expresses a lack of contentment, a state of mind required of Christians. 1Tim 6:8; Heb 13:5

II. EATEN BY DOGS - JEZEBEL (Idolater) 1Ki 21:17-26

- A. Elijah prophesied Jezebel eaten by dogs (23) because she provoked Ahab to idolatry (25-26).
 - 1. Because he married daughter of pagan king & worshiped her idols, he became worst king in Israel's history. 1Ki 16:29-33
 - 2. Should have learned lesson from Solomon Eccl 7:26
 - a. Solomon qualified to address subject 1Ki 11:1-4
 - b. Solomon & Ahab should have known better Deut 7:1-4
 - 3. Although not directly forbidden in N T, Christians should understand the folly of marrying non-Christians
- B. Elisha prophesied Jezebel would be eaten by dogs 2Ki 9:1-10 (10) God avenge servants whose blood Jezebel spilt (7)
 - 1. Obadiah hid 100 prophets while she killed others 1Ki 18:4
 - 2. God promises to avenge the blood of his servants. Deut 32:43
 - 3. Jezebel suffered miserable death for good reason 2Ki 9:30-37
- C. We must "flee from idolatry" 1Cor 10:14 (idolatry more than just Images Col 3:5)

III. MAULED BY BEARS - 42 YOUTHS (Disrespectful) 2Ki 2:23-24

- A. Failure to show respect
 - 1. 42 boys mauled because mocked baldness of a man of God.
 - 2. Baldness usually characteristic of age, and mockers described as "youths," conclude a failure to show respect for elders.
- B. Honoring presence of age required under Law Lev 19:32
 - 1. Signs of age should be regarded as glorious Prov 16:31
 - 2. Simply by virtue of greater experience, those who are older usually are more wise and understanding. Job 12:12
- C. Under N T younger obligated to submit to elders 1Pet 5:5a

IV. CRUSHED BY LIONS - DANIEL'S (False Accusers) Dan 6:1-28

- A. Tell to little ones in Bible classes, but adults also need to hear.
 - 1. Only way Daniel's peers could cause trouble was to use his obedience to God against him (5). May we be so faithful!
 - 2. Daniel displayed great bravery by choosing to pray openly, fully conscious of the fate that awaited him (6-10).
 - 3. Daniel's faith "stopped the mouths of lions" (22-23) Heb 11:33
 - 4. Daniel's accusers & families, cast into lion's den - lions broke all their bones before they came to bottom of den" (24).

B. God avenges His oppressed servants! Deut 32:43

C. Reason we are prohibited from taking vengeance ourselves. Rom 12:19

V. EATEN BY WORMS - HEROD (Took God's glory) Acts 12:20-24

- A. Failed to glorify God when those of Tyre and Sidon deified him.
- B. People of Tyre guilty in past of elevating men to status of god, and for doing so would face an unpleasant death. Ezek 28:1-10
 - 1. Godly men know that when others call them gods, that they must restrain them Acts 14:8-18
 - 2. Although wrong in case of Jesus, Israelites knew that it was blasphemy for a man to make himself God. John 10:33
 - a. In O T blasphemy was punishable by death. Lev 24:16
 - b. Therefore, Herod received what he deserved.
 - 3. People today remain guilty of this sin.
 - a. Eastern religions make themselves gods India: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Parsis (Zoroastrianism) - China: Taoism, Confucianism - Japan: Shintoism
 - b. The New Age movement (of the 70's and 80's) teaches a theology of "feel-goodism," "universal tolerance," and "moral relativism." Man is central. He is viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony.
 - c. Many who call themselves Christians are guilty of this sin when they decide to choose their own course in religion instead of letting God be the guide.
- C. The basis of Herod's sin was pride, a failure to humble himself. 1Pet 5:5-6 Note: Prov 16:18; 11:2; 29:23

CONCLUSION:

- A. Although God does not punish immediately now as He has in time past, sin will not go unpunished.
- B. Unless the Lord comes first, worms will cover us all someday, but by then, the spirit will have departed the body, and we should be unconcerned about it. Job 21:26
- C. What we should take concern with is whether undying worms will plague us in eternity. Mk 9:42-48