

It Might Bite. It Has No Sting

Acts 28:5

Acts 28:5, “And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.”

This scripture is from Acts 28, where Paul was a prisoner bound for Rome and a storm came upon the waters and their ship was wrecked and landed on the island of Melita.

As the people of the island came to help the victims of the shipwreck, Paul gathered sticks for a fire.

Paul placed the sticks on the fire and a viper came out of the fire and fastened on Paul’s hand.

The people of the island saw the venomous ‘beast’ hang on Paul’s hand.

The people of the island said among themselves, Paul was a murderer, yet he escaped the sea vengeance was after him.

When Paul shook the ‘beast’ into the fire and he felt no harm, the people of the island watched Paul for him to become swollen and fall dead suddenly.

They watched Paul and they watched Paul.

When they saw no harm come to Paul, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

I want to say to my brethren in JESUS the Christ and those who will come to JESUS.

We all have been under attacks of JESUS’ enemy and our enemy.

The attacks will continue.

Do not let your heart become faint.

We all have asked GOD, “Why me Lord?”

Some may say, “Have I not gone through enough to prove or show my love to You?”

Some may say, “Here I go again.”

Jesus is our Redeemer, Savior, Messiah, GOD, KING, LORD and our HIGH Priest (forever after the Order of Melchizedek).

I want to encourage each of my brethren and those who will become my brethren, when they accept JESUS the Christ as their Savior to hold on.

Do not throw in the towel.

Do not throw your hands up in surrender of the attack or attacks the devil and his children bring against.

Read what Jesus told us in John 15: 18:

John 15:18, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

John 15:19, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

John 15:20, “Remember the word that I said unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”

JESUS encourages us through the WORD of GOD that the world will hate us because HE has chosen us out of the world to be HIS.

HE separated us from the world and set us apart to be HIS people.

To be HIS beloved.

Psalms 4:3, “But know that thy LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.”

Deuteronomy 14: 2, “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.”

Peter wrote to the brethren to encourage them.

Read what Peter said:

1 Peter 4: 12-19.

1 Peter 4:12, “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”

1 Peter 4: 13, “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings: that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

1 Peter 4:14, “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is gloried.”

Peter tells the brethren it is not strange that you will be attacked.

But know that JESUS has already provided a way for our escaped.

JESUS created us that as we go through the fiery trials and temptations that we would be refined and all those things in us that were not of HE and GOD will be removed.

As we are going through these bad times, these terrible things and these hard to bare times, let us remember what Corinthians 10:13 say.

1 Corinthians 10:13, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye maybe able to bear it.”

God said, ‘bear it’.

The temptation will not destroy us.

GOD made a way for us to bear it to get the victory He intended.

For every trial of our faith, God made a way to use it for our benefit.

Our benefit is to be changed into the image of our Lord and Savior JESUS the Christ.

GOD tells us to commit our souls to HIM as we are suffering.

1 Peter 4:19 states, "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

Let us commit the keeping of souls to GOD.

HE will keep us, as we go through the bad times.

HE will give us more and more grace to bear it and overcome it.

James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

Know nothing we are experiencing or about to experience is unique.

Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9, "The thing that hath been it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

The attacks we are going **through are** not new.

The devil cannot create a new attack.

He is not the CREATOR.

The cosmetics are change.,

2 Corinthians 2:11

"**Lest** Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Your name maybe attacked.

People may attack your character.

Your enemies may attack your qualifications for a position in the church or in the world.

Your body or that of your love ones maybe attacked with sickness or disease.

Exodus 15:26, "And said, if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

1 Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Friends and family may forsake us through our trials.

You may be attacked and taken to court over lies your enemies told on you.

Remember **Luke 12:12**, "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."

Your finances maybe attacked.

You may lose your source of income.

You maybe attacked over your housing or vehicle or even to have food to put in your mouth or feed your family.

Luke 12:24, "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls."

The devil may try to steal your destiny.

The devil will put his servants in your life to keep your eyes and heart from what GOD and JESUS created for your destiny.

It maybe a boyfriend or girlfriends, friends, family or lust and greed, etc.

JESUS said, **Revelation 3:11**, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

The devil can see special gifts and callings GOD has placed in us for HIS and JESUS' kingdom.

GOD expects us to fight the good fight of faith for our gifts and callings.

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

These wonderful gifts and callings are also to help develop us into the nature and admonition our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS.

Romans 11:29, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

God knows what you need to be developed into HIS SON JESUS.

JESUS wants us to be grow and become like HIM.

Psalms 82:6, "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are the children of the most High."

John 10:34, "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?"

Philippians 2:6, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:"

HE gave us these wonderful gifts to help us.

HE gave us prayer, supplications, thanksgiving, praise, helps, soft heart towards man, musical ability to soothe people souls, medical care, teaching ability, humor, gift to help people understand where they are in their lives and give direction, gift of laughter (when there is nothing to laugh about), strength, etc.

The most famous person we know who was dragged into court for lies HIS enemies told on HIM was JESUS.

JESUS stood trial for all of us.

Every attack the devil could bring against us, JESUS stood the trial for us.

HIS friends forsook HIM.

Peter stayed but denied HIM.

JESUS was alone during HIS moment.

But HE was not alone, the greatest person was with HIM through all of it.

That same great person is with us.

The LORD GOD Almighty.

Just as the LORD GOD Almighty was with JESUS, he and JESUS are with us.

Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Psalms 27:10, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up."

Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

JESUS was delivered to Pilate to go to trial for us to stand in our place and take the lies and the judgement.

Mark 15: 1-4, "And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate."

Like our enemies want to take us away from our homes, families and friends and from the presence of GOD.

Mark 15:2 "And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it."

Mark 15:3, "And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing."

I believe those 'many things' are the same things the enemy accuse us with.

Mark 15:4, "And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answered thou nothing? Behold how many things they witness against thee."

I believe JESUS did not answer first, because HE only speaks the truth.

HE would have spoken truth the truth to Pilate which makes one free.

He would have set HIMSELF free, but HE had to die.

Second, I believe JESUS did not answer to all the things HE was accused of because HE had to destroy those lies from us.

HE had to let them laden HIM with all their lies, that they witnessed before Pilate.

Mark 15:5, "But Jesus yet answered nothing: so that Pilate marvelled."

When JESUS was obedient to the LORD GOD Almighty unto death HE exalted JESUS.

Philippians 2:9, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"

Philippians 2:10, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"

Philippians 2:11, "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The Jews used their law, that GOD gave to them to have two or witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15, "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

It is the same way today.

Our enemies come into a covenant to lie on us.

Our enemies will use the law.

But their case is built on the same type of lies against us.

JESUS allowed them to lie on him and HE took the accusations.

HE who knew no sin was found guilty of sins.

HE nailed all those sins, lies and accusations against Him to the cross.

JESUS nailed all those sins, accusations and lies against us to HIS cross and took them away from us who were guilty of those sins.

JESUS did not say a word to defend HIMSELF from the many accusations of the priests.

HE took on our sins.

HE accepted the guilty verdict.

HE did not open HIS mouth to defend HIMSELF, because we HIS people were guilty of the sins the priests were accusing JESUS of.

JESUS had to take on our sins so HE could be put to death.

HE was innocent of sin.

HE knew no sin.

But HE had to be accused of sin and be found worthy of death.

HE had to die in our place because we were guilty of the sins the priests laded JESUS with.

Just as Barabbas was freed when the Jews asked Pilate to release Barabbas, who was a robber.

Matthew 27: 16-18

Matthew 27:16, "And they had a notable prisoner called Barabbas.

Matthew 27:17, "Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?"

Matthew 27:18, "For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

JESUS took Barabbas place of death.

Therefore, Barabbas could not be put to death because JESUS took his place for death.

Our enemies want to take us before different types of authorities or to courts to gain a win over us.

Remember brethren JESUS has already stood in our place.

Remember two people or two objects cannot occupy the same space.

The KING occupied our space of death.

He said affliction will not arise against you a second time.

Take your victory in JESUS' name.

We see more now that an innocent person went to prison or to death for someone else's crime.

Let us seek God.

Let us pray to HIM for peace when we are being attacked.

Let us pray to HIM when we are being lied on every side.

Let us pray to GOD not to worry about the outcome of the attacks.

Let us ask HIM to help us grow during the attack more into the image of HIS Son and our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS the Christ.

We cannot die from the attacks.

JESUS ALREADY DIED IN OUR PLACE.

WE WERE GUILTY OF THE SIN.

JESUS TOOK ON OUR SINS AND WAS FOUND GUILTY OF OUR SINS AND HE WAS PUT TO DEATH FOR OUR SINS.

WE CANNOT BE PUT TO DEATH BY OUR ENEMIES.

GOD REQUIRED ONLY ONE HOLY SACRIFICE AND THAT WAS HIS SON JESUS THE CHRIST.

Paul was going about his business to gather sticks for a fire.

He was about his life and business.

A venomous snake came out of the sticks Paul was gathering.

Venomous snakes always come out of our business.

Whether it is our health.

Our relationship with the church or our walk with GOD.

We see venomous snakes come out of our businesses or family relationships.

Anything we are doing, can have venomous snakes.

When Paul put the sticks on the fire, the venomous snake came out the fire and fastened itself on to Paul's hand.

It did not try to slither away.

It did not try to bite anyone else.

It came directly at Paul.

The writer of **Acts 28**, started calling the venomous snake a 'beast'.

The people of the island said amongst themselves, Paul must have been a murderer and because he escaped the shipwrecked that vengeance came after him with the venomous snake.

Acts 28: 4, "And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live."

Most times the attack against us start out as a regular attack of sickness, disease, or character, name, or reputation, or our honesty, etc.

Then the enemy continued to swell the attack against us.

It can be something like a broken foot.

Then the doctor says the break is not healing or healing wrong and need to do surgery.

Then the anesthesia was wrong.

You have brain damage or some other health problem you have to work through.

Or you are a trucker and are in a vehicle accident in your company truck.

It was clearly not your fault, but you receive the ticket.

Then the guilty party sue you and your company.

You are fired and unemployed.

You hire an attorney, but the attorney wants more money from you to start working on your case.

You start getting sick but cannot go to get medical attention because you don't have health insurance anymore. Your health is getting worst every day and you are becoming weak. Your spouse is upset that they have to pay most of the bills and there is not enough money to pay half of your expenses from the spouse income. Your truck driving license was revoked until the outcome of the court hearing and the lawsuits.

Your children's soccer and football's fees are due and their physical.

The vehicle accident went from a venomous snake to a 'beast'.

We have to ask GOD to help us when the enemy is transforming itself to a 'beast'.

GOD has already provided the answer through JESUS the Christ.

JESUS is the key to heaven's will for our lives.

People, especially our enemies want us to fall before them.

They want to say our GOD could not deliver us from them and their attacks against us.

Acts 28:5, "And he shook off the beast into the fire and felt no harm."

Paul had learned he was on a mission of GOD and JESUS and he had to complete that mission.

That venomous snake was a trick of the devil to kill Paul to stop GOD's and JESUS' will from being completed in Rome.

The gifts and callings of GOD are not reversible.

Nothing could stop Paul from completing the will of the LORD GOD Almighty and JESUS the Christ.

The shipwreck could not stop GOD's will.

The Roman soldiers talking about killing all the prisoners, including Paul.

The venomous snake that came directly after Paul.

None of these events could stop the will of GOD and JESUS for Paul to go to Rome.

These events were not the will of GOD and JESUS.

Therefore, the events would fail.

Only GOD's will can be successful in our lives.

Matthew 6:10, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Paul knew he was given a gift to deliver to Rome by GOD.

He knew from his relationship with JESUS, he could not fail in what GOD's will was.

Even unto his death.

Paul had confidence in JESUS.

He merely shook the venous snake into the fire.

It went from a 'beast' back to a venomous snake and Paul shook it the fire.

The fire represents the judgment of GOD.

GOD's Word already told us to bruise the head of the serpent.

Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Paul received the victory over the venomous snake as it changed back from a 'beast.

Paul knew he was doing the will of GOD and the devil could not stop him.

1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Paul knew the work that was before him in Rome and he was determined to complete his work.

GOD trained Paul for the work he had to complete in Rome.

Romans 8:30, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them also justified: and whom he justified them he also glorified."

Brothers and sisters in JESUS, in this life we will have trials and tribulations.

Sometimes we share our pain and some time we do not share the attacks we are going through.

Ask GOD if you are to share what you are going through.

You may receive more of GOD's Word for you journey through the attack.

You may encourage others that are going through the same type of attacks.

Beware of the venomous snakes that lurking about to become a beast I your life.

Watch over your children and the ones GOD put in charge.

Pray for all brothers and sisters, especially the ones you do not know or may never know on this earth.

I have learned a lot from my sharing Acts 28:5.

Acts 28:5, "And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm."

GOD has revealed to me more who JESUS is and how JESUS literally took my sins as the priests were accusing HIM.

I received more strength to go through some of the attacks from my enemies and stop requesting GOD to end the attack.

GOD knows what HE is creating in me and what HE is drawing out of me in the midst of the attack.

May I suggest brothers and sisters as we go through these attacks that GOD will give us the benefit from:

- 1) Commit our souls to GOD
- 2) Be humble
- 3) Know we are not the only person going through this evil attack
- 4) Know GOD has made a way of escape so we can bear the attack
- 5) GOD will get the glory from the attack

Acts 28:6, "Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that **he was a god.**"

- 6) Be obedient to GOD's plan for your life.

I know you can add much more to my personal list.

I like to leave this scripture for you.

I read this scripture for many years.

This scripture is one of many that tells us to know we are to be attacked, but JESUS has delivered us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ROMANS 8: 30-39

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified; them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died; yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things, nor things to come.

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.