

ANIMAL ATTACKS

INTRODUCTION

- A. If you spend much time watching Animal Planet or the Discovery Channel, or even just paying attention to the news, you know that, even in this age of civilization, incidents in which animals attack humans are not that uncommon.
- B. Animal attacks are recorded in the Scriptures, as well, and there is a lesson behind each one.

I. ISRAELITES BITTEN BY FIERY SERPENTS

- A. **Numbers 21:4-9**
Having been freed by God, through Moses, from the bondage of their Egyptian oppressors, the Israelites in the wilderness began to complain about what God provided them.
- B. **1st Corinthians 10:1-11**
This incident, among others in the Old Testament, serves us as an example that we should learn not to complain, for in doing so, we test God.
- C. **Philippians 2:14**
Complaining is simply forbidden.
- D. **1st Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 13:5**
Complaining expresses a lack of contentment, a state of mind which is required of Christians.

II. DOGS ATE JEZEBEL

- A. **1st Kings 21:17-26**
Elijah prophesied that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (23) because she provoked her husband unto wickedness in the form of idolatry (25-26).
 - 1. **1st Kings 16:29-33**

Yes, because he married the daughter of a pagan king, then followed after her idols, Ahab became the worst king in Israel's history.

2. Ecclesiastes 7:26

Ahab ought to have taken a lesson from Solomon, who wrote of the dangers associated in falling too hard for a woman.

a. 1st Kings 11:1-4

Solomon was certainly qualified to address this subject since he, himself, had taken many, many foreign wives.

b. Deuteronomy 7:1-4

i. Both Solomon and Ahab should have known better, because their actions directly violated the express will of God.

ii. Although not directly forbidden in the New Testament, Christians should understand the folly of marrying non-Christians.

B. 2nd Kings 9:1-10

This time through Elisha and an assistant, it was again prophesied that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (10). The reason here stated was that God would avenge his servants whose blood Jezebel had spilt (7).

1. 1st Kings 18:4

The blood of the Lord's servants had indeed been shed by Jezebel, for at one time a servant in the household of Ahab named Obadiah hid one hundred prophets of God while she massacred others.

2. Deuteronomy 32:43

God promises to avenge the blood of his servants.

C. 2nd Kings 9:30-37

Jezebel suffered such a miserable demise for good reason.

III. BEARS MAULED FORTY-TWO YOUTHS

A. **2nd Kings 2:23-24**

1. Forty-two boys were mauled by bears because they had mocked the baldness of a man of God.
2. Baldness usually being a characteristic attributable to age, and the mockers thereof being described as “youths,” we conclude that this is a case of youngsters failing to show respect to their elders.

B. **Leviticus 19:32**

Honoring the presence of the aged was required under the Law of Moses.

1. **Proverbs 16:31**

Signs of old age should be regarded as glorious if the bearer of those signs is righteous.

2. **Job 12:12**

Simply by virtue of greater experience, those who are older usually are more wise and understanding.

C. **1st Peter 5:5_a**

Within the Law of Christ, the younger are still obligated to submit to elders.

IV. **DANIEL’S ACCUSERS CRUSHED BY LIONS**

A. **Daniel 6:1-28**

We thrill to tell this story to little ones in their elementary Bible classes, but it is an incident we should still delight to hear as adults.

1. Daniel was so upright among his peers that the only way they knew they could cause him trouble was by using his steadfast obedience to God against him (5). May we, likewise, be so faithful that our enemies reach the same conclusion.
2. Daniel displayed the greatest of bravery when he chose to pray openly, fully conscious of the fate that awaited him (6-10).
3. **Hebrews 11:33**
Daniel’s faith “stopped the mouths of lions” (22-23).

4. In the end, it was those who had accused Daniel who were, with their families, cast into the den of lions, where *“the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den”* (24).

B. Deuteronomy 32:43

1. Truly, we are assured that God avenges His oppressed servants!

2. **Romans 12:19**

This is why we are prohibited from taking vengeance ourselves.

V. HEROD EATEN BY WORMS

A. Acts 12:20-24

King Herod was eaten by worms after an angel had struck him for failing to glorify God when those of Tyre and Sidon deified him.

B. Ezekiel 28:1-10

The people of Tyre had been guilty in the past of elevating men to the status of god, and for doing so they would face an unpleasant death.

1. **Acts 14:8-18**

Godly men know that when others call them gods, that they must restrain them, imploring them to forsake idolatry and turn to the living God.

2. **John 10:33**

Although they were wrong in the case of Jesus, the Israelites knew that it was blasphemy for a man to make himself God.

- a. **Leviticus 24:16**

In the Old Testament, blasphemy was a sin punishable by death.

- b. Therefore, Herod received what he deserved.

3. People today remain guilty of this sin.

- a. Those who practice ancient Eastern religions and New Age philosophies make themselves to be god.
- b. 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. 1st Peter 5:5-6

The basis of Herod's sin was pride, a failure to humble himself.

- 1. **Proverbs 16:18**
- 2. **Proverbs 11:2**
- 3. **Proverbs 29:23**

CONCLUSION

A. Job 21:26

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.

B. Mark 9:42-48

What we should take concern with is whether undying worms will plague us in eternity.