

LESSONS FROM THE FOUR LITTLE CREATURES (Part 2)

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In the last edition we began a study of the four little creatures that fascinated Agur son of Jakeh. We saw that all these four little creatures are small in size but great in thoughts. What they lack in physical strength, they make up in wisdom.

The four little creatures are:

1. Ants
2. Coneys (Hyrax)
3. Locusts
4. Lizards

Prov 30:24-28

24 "Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: 25 Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; 26 coneys are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; 27 locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; 28 a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.

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We took a close look at the Ants and the Coneys (Hyrax), In this edition, we are going to be looking at the Locusts and Lizards. Enjoy the study.

LESSONS FROM THE LOCUSTS

There are ten Hebrew words used in Scripture to signify locust. In the New Testament locusts are mentioned as forming part of the food of John the Baptist (Matt 3:4; Mark 1:6). By the Mosaic Law they were reckoned "clean," so that he could lawfully eat them. The name also occurs in Rev. 9:3, Rev. 9:7, in allusion to this Oriental devastating insect.

Locusts belong to the class of Orthoptera, i.e., straight-winged. They are of many species. The ordinary Syrian locust resembles the grasshopper, but is larger and more destructive. "The legs and thighs of these insects are so powerful that they can leap to a height of two hundred times the length of their bodies.

When so raised they spread their wings and fly so close together as to appear like one compact moving mass." Locusts are prepared as food in various ways. Sometimes they are pounded, and then mixed with flour and water, and baked into cakes; "sometimes boiled, roasted, or stewed in butter, and then eaten." They were eaten in a preserved state by the ancient Assyrians. The devastations they make in Eastern lands are often very appalling.

The invasions of locusts are the heaviest calamities that can befall a country. Their numbers exceed computation: the Hebrews called them 'the countless,' and the Arabs knew them as 'the darkeners of the sun.' Unable to guide their own flight, though capable of crossing large spaces, they are at the mercy of the wind, which bears them as blind instruments of Providence to the doomed region given over to them for the time. Innumerable as the drops of water or the sands of the seashore, their flight obscures the sun and casts a thick shadow on the earth (Exod. 10:15;

Jdgs. 6:5; Jdgs. 7:12; Jer. 46:23; Joel 2:10). It seems indeed as if a great aerial mountain, many miles in breadth, were advancing with a slow, unresting progress. Woe to the countries beneath them if the wind fall and let them alight! They descend unnumbered as flakes of snow and hide the ground. It may be 'like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them is a desolate wilderness. At their approach the people are in anguish; all faces lose their colour' (Joel 2:6). No walls can stop them; no ditches arrest them; fires kindled in their path are forthwith extinguished by the myriads of their dead, and the countless armies march on (Joel 2:8, Joel 2:9). If a door or a window be open, they enter and destroy everything of wood in the house.

Every terrace, court, and inner chamber is filled with them in a moment. Such an awful visitation swept over Egypt (Exod. 10:1-19), consuming before it every green thing, and stripping the trees, till the land was bared of all signs of vegetation. A strong north-west wind from the Mediterranean swept the locusts into the Red Sea.

The amazing thing about the Locust is that they have no king, but yet they advance together in ranks. There is no power tussle on who is to rule and lead. They are truly wise in this. They have the understanding that it is not who rules, but the vision of staying, breeding, and fighting together that matters. They move together in uncountable numbers that makes it difficult for them to be defeated.

Lessons from the Locusts for man are as follows:

1. You cannot make it in life alone. You need people. You were not created to live and work alone.

Gen 2:18

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

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- The Lord Jesus encouraged partnership by sending out His disciples to preach two by two.

Luke 10:1

10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

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- The authority the church has is more effective when more people team up to exercise it.

Matt 18:18-20

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

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- Everything you have come from God working through people.

- Success is a collection of relationships. Without Clients, a Lawyer has no career. Without patients, a doctor has no one to cure. Without a writer, a publisher has no business. Without customers, a trader will make no sales.
- Your future is connected to people. So develop relationship skills.
- You need problem-solvers in your life. As you invest into people, people invest into you.
- You need a family. You need a Pastor to minister to your spiritual needs. You need a doctor for health needs. You need a lawyer for legal matters. You need people who impact your life one way or the other. Treat these people as your family.
- What is missing in you is in another.

2. Team work is more successful.

Amos 3:3

3 Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

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Gen 11:6

6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

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3. There is power in unity.

It is not possible for a single locust to achieve what a swarm of locusts will achieve within a given period of time.

- Where there is unity the blessings of God flow freely.
- Where there is unity the anointing of our High Priest (Jesus Christ) is manifested to bring to us all that His sacrifice has purchased for us.

Ps 133

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

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4. Who leads us is not important, what is important is the agreement to pursue a vision.

Gen 11:6

6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

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- Don't fight or plot for leadership position.
- Submit to leadership. Obey instructions
- Be a good follower.

5. Title is not necessary. What is necessary is that you join force with others to win.

- Like the locusts, every one must play his part.
 - Don't look for titles, do your part in the commission.
 - What men call you doesn't matter, but what God calls you by reason of your contribution to the work is what matters.
 - Focus on the assignment and not recognition.
- 6. An army of thousands will be more intimidating than an army of one.**
- Praying with others will be more effective than alone.
 - Fellowshiping with others will yield more dividends than fellowshiping alone.
 - Be part of the vision and don't fight for post.
 - Do not be envious of another.
 - Don't antagonize your leader because you are not made the leader.
 - Work with any leader over you with all your heart.
 - Don't start your own when you are supposed to support an existing work.

LESSONS FROM THE LIZARD

In zoology, a genus of amphibious animals, called *Lacerta*, and comprehending the crocodile, alligator, chameleon, and salamander. But the name, in common life, is applied to the smaller species of this genus, and of these there is a great variety. These animals are ranked in the order of reptiles. The body is naked, with four feet and a tail. The body is thicker and more tapering than that of the serpent.

The commonest lizard of Palestine is the rough-tailed agama, *Agama stellio*, Arabic *ħirdaun* or *ħirdaun*, which is everywhere in evidence, running about on the ground, rocks or walls, frequently lying still basking in the sun, or bobbing its head up and down in the peculiar manner that it has.

The gecko, *Ptyodactylus lobatus*, is common in houses. By means of adhesive disks on the under sides of its toes, it clings with ease to smooth walls which other lizards cannot scale. Although perfectly harmless, it is believed to be poisonous, and is much feared. It is called *abu-brais*, "father of leprosy," either on account of its supposed poisonous qualities or because it has a semi-transparent and sickly appearance, being of a whitish-yellow color with darker spots. It utters a little cry, which may be the reason why the Revised Version (British and American) has "gecko" for 'ānākāh; the King James Version has "ferret."

Various species of the genus *Lacerta* and its allies, the true lizards, may always be found searching for insects on trees and walls. They are scaly, like all lizards, but are relatively smooth and are prettily colored, and are the most attractive members of the group which are found in the country. They are called by the Arabs *saḳkaiyeh* or *shammûseh*.

The skinks include *Scincus officinalis*, and allied species. Arabic *saḳanḳuḥ* = Greek *skígkos* (*skinkos*). They are smooth, light-colored lizards, and are found in sandy places. They cannot climb, but they run and burrow in the sand with remarkable rapidity. The dried body of *Scincus*

officinalis is an important feature of the primitive oriental materia medica, and may be found in the shops (officinae) of the old-style apothecaries.

An agama is any one of the various small, long-tailed, insect-eating lizards of the [genus Agama](#). The agamid genus is composed of at least 31 species across [Africa](#), where they are the most common lizard. They can be found in many sizes, from 5 inches to a foot in length and a wide variety of colors. One of the best known species is the red-headed rock agama ([Agama agama](#)), widespread in [sub-Saharan Africa](#).

Agamas originally lived in forest and bush across Africa, but have since adapted to live in villages and compounds and even in the cities where their habitat has been cleared. They live on trees, inside the thatch of huts, uncompleted buildings and other small secluded spaces that they can find, emerging only to feed. If caught out in the open, agamas are able to run quickly on their hind legs to reach shelter. The desert agama can still be found in the dry areas of North Africa, though unlike their name implies, they avoid bare sand.

Mature dominant males have bright orange and blue coloring and may have a red face. Subordinate males, or any that have recently been frightened will have a dull brown color. At night, all males turn a dark shade of brown.

Agamas are active during the day and after often found scampering around to snatch up their favorite foods. They can tolerate greater temperatures than most reptiles, but in the afternoon when temperatures reach around 38°C (100°F) they will settle into the shade and wait for it to cool. Frequent fighting breaks out between males which involves a lot of bobbing and weaving in an attempt to scare each other. If it comes to blows, they will lash out with their tails and threaten each other with open jaws. Many older males have broken tails as a result of such fights. Females may sometimes chase and fight each others, while hatchlings mimic the adults in preparation for their future.

Agamas are mainly insectivores. Their incisor-like front teeth are designs for quick cutting and chewing of they prey. They may also eat grass, berries, seeds and even the eggs of smaller lizards.

Most agamas are polygamous. Males may hold six or more females on their territory for breeding. During courtship, the male bobs his head to impress the female. Occasionally, females may initiate courtship by offering their hindquarters to the male and then running until he is able to catch up. The breeding season is typically March-May with eggs being laid in June-September during the season after the rains. Eggs are laid in clutches of up to twelve.

Lizards can be found in kings palaces. They have abandoned the bushes and trees and have come to share quarters with man, even in the palace of the kings. Agur son of Jakeh found this to be very interesting. He declared the Lizard is very wise in doing that.

Lessons from the (Agama) Lizard for man are as follows:

- 1. Love yourself. Have a good self-image.**

The Lizard has a good image of itself. The lizard believes it can also live in the king's palace as a king.

2. If people don't like or accept you, love and accept yourself.

The Lizard loves and accepts itself, and never looks down on itself. He nods its head all the time to show its love and appreciation of itself and efforts. When it jumps or falls from a tree or a certain height, it will nod its head in self-approval and praise.

3. Be proud of who you are as God made you. Don't feel inferior.

The lizard is always proud of itself. Each time it falls or jumps from the tree or a certain height, it will nod its head in approval and praise of itself. Whether someone praises it or not, it praises itself self to reassure itself of a job well done.

- You are made in the image of God after His likeness.

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

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- You are one with Christ.

1 Cor 6:17

17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

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1 John 4:17

17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

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- You are born great, and you shall be great.

4. Don't try to be another. Be yourself. You are an original.

The Lizard never tries to be another person but itself. It keeps its nature and character.

5. Don't limit yourself to any geographical or social class.

The Lizard believes it does not have to live only on trees, but in human houses and even king's palaces. You can be or live anywhere you want. "I can be a king in the king's palace" the Lizard seems to say to itself.

6. What you think of me is not important, what is important is what I think of myself.

The Lizard always thinks of itself as great, and with that mentality it lives its life and enjoys it. It sees itself as a candidate for the throne, so he moves his residence to the king's palace.

- Think of yourself as great, and be great.

7. You are very important. Believe that. The Lizard believes that, and lives with that consciousness.

CONCLUSION

It is very clear from our study of these four little but wise creatures that one can become anything he wishes, and should not be limited by circumstances of life or things he does not have. Make use of what you have to become what you are destined to become. Draw lessons from these creatures and make your life meaningful and successful.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. Nobody has a money problem, what we have is an idea problem.
2. May be what you need is an internal change – an attitude change.
3. We need to turn from negativism to positivism.
4. Stop seeing as ordinary men see, but see as God sees for you are a child of God. The way you see determines the way you respond or react to situations and people.
5. You may think you have a serious problem, but all you need is a decision to make.
6. Be open to change. Don't fight change.
7. Be open to advice and instruction.
8. Be open to rebuke.
9. Be open to correction and discipline.
10. Jesus is the unchanging changer. Let him change you. That is why He came to this world and now living in your heart.
11. Success is not a gift but the result of a process. The right application of the principles of success will bring success.
12. Partnering with God makes attaining success less stressful and exciting.
13. Giving to God opens the windows of heaven causing the blessings of God to pour down on the giver and his pursuits, thereby producing supernatural breakthroughs and advancements.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. It takes connection to people to succeed in life and in any field of endeavour. The right people in your life will bring you to your dreams and make the right things happen in your life as at when due.

2. When God wants to bless a man, He sends or connects you to someone. When the devil wants to ruin a man, he sends someone also. Both use the instrumentality of humans, so watch out.
3. When God wants to give us a harvest or reward for our giving, he doesn't give cash in most cases, but ideas and a connection to someone, that if we nourish the relationship, it will bring a flow of money and good things.
4. Your assignment is always to a person or a people.
5. Each relationship nurtures strength or a weakness within you.
6. You have something others need and someone has what you need. You need relationships.
7. Reward those who help you succeed.
8. You can only relate with a person based on the value you place on him and your relationship with him.
9. A relationship that is not rooted in love will not last long.
10. When selfish interests is the reason for a relationship, the relationship will crash and fall apart.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Your opinion of yourself is more important than people's opinion about you. Assess yourself based on the word of God about you. Have a good image of yourself no matter what.
2. Keep your thoughts clean at all times.
3. Keep love afresh in your heart for your family, friends and team mates. Battle every evil thought that wants to kill that love.
4. A man's feelings are a manifestation of his thoughts "As in water, face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man." (Prov.27:19)
5. There can be no feelings (emotions) without thoughts.
6. Whatever feelings you have towards anybody is a product or the function of your mind based on the information fed it by your physical senses.
7. A man's thoughts motivate and push him to say and do the things he says and does.
8. Life is a product of concepts, opinions, ideologies and beliefs. This is the reason why God teaches His word to reveal the truth about all things to man, this in turn will liberate man from error and wrong life.
9. Your knowledge determines your principles in life and how you live.
10. Ability to manage one's thoughts is ability to manage one's life.
11. Determine in your heart to only think those things that are in agreement with the word of God