

The Serpent & The Light

Leanna Bolden Eternally Speaking Now

Listen to this Blog Here

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place."

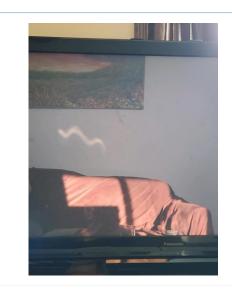
2 Corinthians 2:14

Last month I shared a parable of sorts, expressed through a photograph. As an artist, musician, or actor may convey a story, emotion, or thought through a drawing, song, or play, a photograph can also display a landscape that reveals a timely message. (Read or listen to last month's blog, Answers To Answers Double, here.)

Well, as the Lord would have it, I've got another exciting scene to share with you, this time communicated through a series of photos that capture an intriguing phenomenon, involving a squiggly line and a circle of light.

Following is how it played out.

One morning last week, I got up early to read the Word. The house was quiet, and Robin was in his Saturday morning men's Bible study. I sat down on the couch and began reading the book of Ruth. I wanted to read it 'for myself' before studying it to teach others at my next Women's Bible study.



At some point I **looked up** and saw a **squiggly line** on the **wall**. I **leapt up** to get my phone and took this shot, having no idea what would come of it.

This first scene is of the **wall** behind me, as reflected on the TV screen in front of me. I was **nestled** on the left side of the couch as you view this picture.

While the curvy line could resemble several things, the only object the Lord allowed me to settle on was: *it is a serpent*.

I sensed an immediate call to pray against the enemy, especially regarding the devil's attempts to come against our family.

Before you assume I jumped to imaginary conclusions, let me provide a brief background.



Background:

The **night** before, in the **dark**, Robin had walked past this shelf (no longer on the **wall**) and accidentally knocked **down** one of the decorations. In the process of trying to catch the item, he must have bumped the shelf in such a way as to make the whole thing fall **down**. At that same moment, I came around the corner and literally caught the photo with him, somehow keeping things from breaking (except the edge of the shelf).

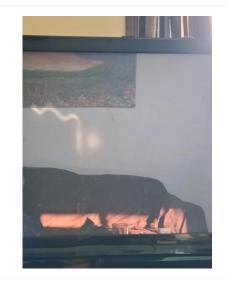
This is no big deal-- stuff like this happens in life, and I wouldn't have thought much of it-- that is, if the snake image hadn't appeared on the **wall** the next morning. We all know how **cunning** the devil is: I could practically smell his **stench** as I noticed the following afternoon *the specific articles* that had fallen from the **wall** the **evening** before. If you zoom in on the picture above, you'll see these items:

* A family photo commemorating the season when God **called and sent** us from California to Texas **into full-time ministry**

* A declaration of **being BLESSED**

* A reminder that 'My Cup Runneth Over'

Please keep these themes in mind, as I continue to share about the phenomenon of **light** on the **wall**.



Back to the Story:

After observing and taking the first photo of the **snake on the wall**, I returned to studying Ruth. A few minutes later, **I looked up** and saw that *the serpent had grown*.

Its head had traveled *closer* to me, and its tail had extended **down**ward.

At the same time, a **circle of light** appeared to the right of the snake's tail.

Let me clarify at this point that I was completely aware that this was a pattern of **light** on the **wall** behind me, reflected on the TV. (*Don't worry, I didn't think it was a real snake.*) I am though, quite familiar with God's use of things 'in the natural' to speak of realities 'in the spiritual.' To cite a few examples:

With the prophet Jeremiah, He used the branch of an almond tree to show that He is watching over His word. Also with Jeremiah, the Lord used a potter's house and wheel to declare that He has the right to create what He wants, in the way He desires, to be used in the way He sees fit. He used a basket with Zechariah and a plumb line with Amos, equipping them to deliver timely messages of guidance, warning and instruction.

Evidence of God using simple items or pictures in our daily lives is sprinkled throughout Scripture. As He has for many of you, the Lord has operated this way in my life countless times.

You may be asking, "How do we know something like this is indeed of the Lord?" Great question. *Critical* question.

The way we know is by His confirmations.

First and foremost, He'll echo what He's speaking through His word. *If something contradicts the truth as expressed through Scripture, discard it as fast as possible, because it is not in line with the character of God.* He then provides further validation through circumstances, godly counsel, a spiritual 'sense' or peace, and repeated identical 'sightings.'

When it became evident that the Lord was most likely speaking something through this uncanny pattern of **lights**, I admit I got a twinge of **fear**. *It was disturbing how far the snake was allowed to move towards me*. I was also tempted momentarily by a **taunting** to **fear** that a bad thing was coming upon my family (which the enemy conveniently timed, on the heels of the symbolic things **falling from the wall** the **night** prior).

This led me into a deeper urgency to pray against the devil and his minions, accompanied again by specific petitions *against the spirit of fear* and for my *family's protection*. The Holy Spirit coupled this with a powerful nudge to *intercede for Robin and the men in his Bible study* as well.

I calmly yet **firmly** spoke Scripture with **authority**, commanding the enemy to get out, **get down**, and **worship Jesus**.

After those prayers, the Holy spirit granted me peace, and I returned to my reading. As I continued to read **Ruth**, the Lord began to **fill** me with an excitement and anticipation for what He would do next...



A few minutes later I **looked up**, and there it was again, closer than before.

That *brazen, slithery serpent* was now moving into the picture of flowers and colorful foliage behind me.

Its mouth was poised to **devour** the plants, blossoms, and abundant growth poignantly symbolized by the painting above my head.

Observe also how its tail at this stage stretched **downward** even more, as if in an attempt to **block** the circle of **light**. *Yet, the shining spot had only gotten larger. (Compare its size to the previous pictures.)*

When I saw the snake **encroaching** upon the painting, I prayed all the more **fervently** for Robin's anointing and against the devil's **attacks**. As I did, I inspected the phenomenon more closely, which resulted in an exciting observation:

A small portion of the snake's head was being cut off. Yes, the curve of its crown was flattening! It was like a boundary line had been drawn, and the adversary was not permitted to devour a thing. **Filled** with even more **boldness**, I prayed once more and turned my attention back to researching Ruth.



Not one minute later, I **looked up**, and it was gone.

The serpent had disappeared. Not only that, but the spot of light remained-*bigger* and *brighter* than before.

Notice also how the 'tail' that had stretched **downward** was no longer considered a part of the snake.

The serpent was **annihilated**, **usurped** by the **Light-circle**.

In fact, somehow in the process of **exterminating** the snake, it's like the **circle** of **light** *took* its tail-- the very thing used in an attempt to **obstruct** the circle-- and *transformed* it into something **good**, as if to display it as a **trophy of victory**.

Did you catch that? *This is what our Almighty God does*. The entire encounter left me with the urge to cry out with Joseph in Genesis 50:20,

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Confirmation

When Robin returned from his gathering, I immediately asked how things had gone. *Without knowing any of the above*, he proceeded to share the following:

- He'd begun a study on the character traits of godly men. That morning's trait was **courage**.

- The Scriptures the men examined were in Nehemiah, about rebuilding the **wall** of Jerusalem. (Really!)

- Robin also took them to 1 Peter 5:8-9, addressing how we're to be sober and vigilant, *because our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* We're to resist him,

steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by our brethren in the world.

- At some point of the meeting, the Holy Spirit prompted my husband to expose the **spirit of fear.** Fear had been at the crux of the enemy's **jeers** against Nehemiah, and it's still at the root of the devil's **goads** against us today.

- Robin then equipped the men with how to **defeat fear** in *Jesus' name, with authority, and through declaring the truth in Scripture.*

I hadn't known what Robin was teaching, and he hadn't known what I was experiencing; all the while, within one hour, the Holy Spirit did this incredible, supernatural work. And He confirmed it, as well.

Challenge

God's challenge to us is simple, and it comes back to what was knocked off the **wall**. (*Temporarily toppled*, might I clarify. The shelf and all its **divinely declarative decorations** are now back in place on our **wall** as before, with only a minor scar on the corner of the ledge-- evidence that speaks of this testimony.)

The enemy **ridicules** us, attempting to **devour** our **callings** (framed photo of family being sent to serve God), our **blessings** (sign on the shelf), and our **'full cup of the Spirit'** (the other plaque on the shelf).

Satan is determined to replace these things with **fear**, **destruction**, and **emptiness**.

Well, guess what? He may come to **steal**, **kill and destroy**, **but Jesus has come that we may have life**, **and that we may have it more abundantly**. *John 10:10*

Jesus is the **Light** of the world, and He trumps the devil. *In all ways and at every time*.

If you are surrendered to Christ, and if you have put your hope and trust in Him as Lord and Savior, then your life is **hidden** in Him. *Colossians 3:1-3* You are **reconciled** to your Heavenly Father, who He is **greater** than all. *John 10:29* You are **sealed** with His Holy Spirit of promise. *Ephesians 1:13-14* **Absolutely nothing** can separate you from the **love of God** that is in Christ Jesus. *Romans 8:37-39* **No one** can snatch you out of your Father's **hand.** *John 10:28-30* If you are seeking the Lord and obeying His Word, then your **calling** is secure, your **blessings** are guaranteed, and His Holy Spirit will **freely fill** you up **and overflow** from you.

> Would you like to know the meaning of the name Ruth, the book in the Bible that I was studying while observing the the Serpent & the Light?

The name Ruth means, *"friend, friendship."* Stay courageous, dear Christian! No matter how close the serpent comes, you have nothing to fear, if you are a *friend of God*. Take refuge in Him, our Defender and our **Light**.

> "If you make the Lord your refuge, even the Most High your dwelling place... you shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot." Psalm 91:9,13

Did you know that in Jesus you are invincible? Below is a 12-minute teaching I pray will radically impact and empower you. Watch and then forward to others. Let's encourage the Body of Christ.

Invincible Living: A 12-minute Video Teaching

Copyright 2023 September Leanna Bolden, Eternally Speaking Now

