

Quick Reference Chart: **Serpent** (H5175)



OLD TESTAMENT

Serpent H5175 nachash

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Genesis 3:1	"...the serpent (H5175 <i>nachash</i>) was more subtil than all the beasts..."	Symbolizing the carnal mind's capacity for self-deception and rationalization of sin.	The serpent (H5175 <i>nachash</i>) represents subtlety and craftiness, aligning with how the carnal mind distorts truth. Paul warns in 2Cor 11:3 that believers might be "beguiled" as Eve was, showing the serpent's deception as an example of corrupt reasoning. Jer 17:9 affirms that "the heart is deceitful above all things," emphasizing the mind's potential for deception. Proverbs repeatedly contrasts wisdom (<i>arum</i> , H6175) with craftiness, demonstrating how the same intelligence can either discern truth or twist it for self-justification (Prov 14:8, 14:15, 16:25).
Genesis 3:2-3	"...the woman said unto the serpent (H5175), We may eat... but of the tree in the midst... ye shall not eat, neither shall ye touch it..."	The mind engaging in dialogue with carnal reasoning, beginning to distort divine instruction.	Eve accurately repeats God's command but adds "neither shall ye touch it," suggesting how the carnal mind can exaggerate and misinterpret divine law (Rom 7:5-11; 1Cor 15:56). Overemphasizing restrictions often leads to rebellion (Prov 9:17, Eccl 7:16-17, Matt 23:4, Gal 5:1). The law reveals sin but does not prevent it (Rom 7:9-12).
Genesis 3:4	"...the serpent (H5175) said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die..."	The carnal mind's deceptive assurance that sin has no consequence.	The first recorded lie in Scripture contradicts God's warning. 2Cor 11:3-4 warns that, just as the serpent beguiled Eve, believers can be led astray by false teachers preaching a different gospel (Gal 1:7-8). The pattern of deception follows: (1) Rational debate → (2) Distortion of God's word → (3) Minimization of consequences → (4) Self-justification . Spiritual death results from sin (Rom 6:16, 23; James 1:15), but the carnal mind resists this reality, offering false assurance.

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Genesis 3:13	"...The serpent (H5175) beguiled me, and I did eat."	The carnal mind's rationalization and deceitful reasoning.	Eve's admission reflects how the carnal mind distorts truth to justify disobedience (2Cor 11:3). The Hebrew <i>nasha</i> (beguiled) means "to lead astray, deceive, seduce," aligning with Jer 17:9 , which warns of the heart's deceitfulness. The carnal mind shifts blame instead of accepting responsibility (Prov 16:25; James 1:14-15).
Genesis 3:14	"...upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."	The carnal mind's subjection to fleshly desires and material concerns.	"Going on the belly" symbolizes being bound to earthly, fleshly appetites (Rom 8:6-8). Eating "dust" represents mortality and worldly preoccupation (Gen 3:19; Isa 65:25). The carnal mind is never satisfied and constantly seeks worldly fulfillment (Ecc 3:20; Mic 7:16-17; Rom 7:14-25).
Genesis 3:15	"...enmity between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed..."	The spiritual battle between the flesh (carnal-minded people) and the spirit (spiritually-minded people).	"Thy seed" represents those ruled by carnal desires (Rom 8:7; Gal. 5:17), while "her seed" symbolizes the spiritually obedient (Rom 8:6; Col 1:21-22). The " bruise the head " phrase signifies the ultimate triumph of the spiritual mind over the carnal (Rom 16:20), while the heel bruise represents temporary struggles against the carnal mind's deception (Heb 2:14-15).

The Serpent as a Symbol of the Carnal Mind

The **serpent in Genesis 3** is best understood as a **metaphor for the carnal mind**, not a literal talking snake or supernatural entity. Scripture describes the serpent as **subtle** (**H6175 – 'aruw**'), a term that can mean both **wise and crafty**, reflecting how **human reasoning can be used to justify sin**. Like Eve's internal dialogue, the carnal mind **rationalizes disobedience, distorts truth, and minimizes consequences**, leading to **spiritual downfall** (**2Cor 11:3, Rom 7:18-23, James 1:14-15**).

The **curse on the serpent**—crawling on its **belly** and eating **dust**—symbolizes the **enslavement of the carnal mind to worldly desires and fleshly concerns** (**Gen 3:14, Rom 8:6-8**). There is a **significant connection** between the **curse on the serpent (interpreted as the carnal mind)** in **Genesis 3:14-15** and the **curses of Deuteronomy 28**. This connection lies in the **nature of the curses as consequences of following the carnal mind** (symbolized by the serpent) instead of **obedience to God's commandments**. The **enmity between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed** (**Gen 3:15**) represents the ongoing battle between **carnal reasoning and spiritual truth**.

Ultimately, the lesson of the serpent is that **the greatest deception comes from within**—our own minds can lead us away from God through **self-justification and false wisdom**. True discernment requires **rejecting carnal reasoning and aligning with divine truth and the Word of God**.

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Genesis 49:17	"...Dan shall be a serpent (H5175) by the way, an adder in the path..."	The tribe of Dan is likened to a serpent, symbolizing subtlety, strategic cunning, and indirect influence.	The serpent metaphor does not imply a supernatural being but a quality of strategy and unexpected action (Judg 18:27-29, 13:2-5). Dan's military tactics resemble guerrilla warfare , striking enemies at vulnerable points (biting the horse's heels). This aligns with how Dan's descendants, linked to European migrations (Denmark, Danube), influenced nations indirectly. Dan's exclusion from Revelation (Rev 7:5-8) may reflect historical idolatry (Judg 18:30-31), yet its restoration in Eze 48 supports Israel's ultimate reunification (Rom 11:26).
Exodus 4:3	"...cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent (H5175); and Moses fled from before it."	The serpent symbolizes God's power over earthly authority, particularly Egypt.	The staff-to-serpent transformation demonstrates God's supremacy over Egyptian symbols of power, as Egyptian rulers associated serpents with divine authority . Moses fleeing suggests his initial fear, but God's control over the serpent reassures him. This act foreshadows later biblical uses of the serpent as a divine sign (Num 21:6-9; 2Kings 18:4).
Exodus 4:4	"...Put forth your hand, and take it by the tail... and it became a rod in his hand."	A test of Moses' faith and a sign of God's sovereign control.	Grabbing a snake by the tail is dangerous, yet Moses obeys, showing faith in God's command . The return of the serpent to a rod affirms God's power over both nature and nations . This miracle establishes Moses' divine commission, proving that God equips those He calls (Exo 7:8-12).

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Exodus 7:9	"...Take your rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent (H8577 tanniyn)."	The rod transforming into a tanniyn (sea-serpent or crocodile) symbolizes God's power over Egypt.	Unlike H5175 nachash (divine serpent) in Exodus 4:3, the H8577 tanniyn refers to a great reptilian creature , often linked to Egyptian mysticism and Pharaoh's power (Eze 29:3) . Egypt's ruler was metaphorically likened to a great dragon of the Nile , but this miracle demonstrated Yahweh's sovereignty over Pharaoh's authority . Similar imagery appears in Isa 27:1 (Leviathan as oppressive world powers) and Rev 13 (the beast from the sea).
Exodus 7:15	"...the rod which was turned to a serpent (H5175) shalt thou take in thine hand."	Moses' rod, previously transformed into a divine serpent (nachash), is a tangible symbol of Yahweh's delegated power over Pharaoh.	The return to H5175 nachash (serpent with divine implications) reaffirms Moses' role as Elohim to Pharaoh (Exo 7:1) . Yahweh never speaks directly to Pharaoh, instead, Moses alone wields divine authority , reflecting a quasi-deity role (Psalm 82:6, Exo 22:8-9) . This confrontation at the Nile, a sacred setting for Egyptian religious practices, signals the impending collapse of Pharaoh's perceived godhood under Yahweh's supreme dominion.
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Numbers 21:6	"...Yahweh sent fiery (H8314 saraph) serpents (H5175 nachash) among the people..."	The fiery serpents symbolize divine judgment for rebellion.	<i>Saraph</i> means burning, poisonous , describing the effect of the serpents' bite. The serpents represent the consequences of sin (1Cor 10:9) , showing that rebellion leads to suffering and death (Rom 6:23).
Numbers 21:8	"...Make you a fiery serpent (H8314 seraph), and set it upon a pole..."	The bronze serpent as a symbol of divine healing through faith.	The serpent on the pole foreshadows Christ (John 3:14) . Just as the Israelites had to look in faith to be healed, believers must look to Christ for salvation. The symbol reverses the curse —a deadly serpent (judgment) becomes a source of healing (mercy).
Numbers 21:9	"...if a serpent (H5175) had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."	The act of looking symbolizes faith and obedience, not superstition.	Healing came not from the object itself but from obedience to God's instruction . This mirrors how faith in Christ brings salvation (John 3:14-15) . However, 2Kings 18:4 shows how later Israelites turned the serpent into an idol , demonstrating the danger of misplacing faith in symbols rather than in God.
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
2Kings 18:4	"...brake in pieces the brasen serpent (H5175 nachash) that Moses had made..."	The bronze serpent (once a divine sign) had become an idol, necessitating its destruction.	Though originally used as a symbol of divine healing (Num 21:9) , Israel misplaced their faith in the object itself rather than in God. Hezekiah's reforms sought to eliminate false worship, including breaking Nehushtan (literally "a thing of bronze"), which had become a source of idolatry (Exo 20:3-4; Deut 12:3) . This event highlights the danger of religious symbols becoming objects of veneration rather than reminders of faith (Matt 23:16-17).
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Job 26:13	"...His hand hath formed the crooked serpent (H5175 nachash)..."	The crooked serpent represents celestial formations, specifically the constellation Hydra.	The serpent as a celestial symbol reflects ancient astronomical knowledge , where constellations were given symbolic meanings. The Septuagint's translation interprets it as God defeating an apostate dragon , paralleling Isa 27:1 , where Leviathan (the crooked serpent) symbolizes earthly rulers and oppressive powers . Similar imagery appears in Eze 29:3-5 (Pharaoh as a crocodile) and Rev 12:3 (Rome as the great red dragon).

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Psalm 58:4	"...Their poison is like the poison of a serpent (H5175)..."	The deceitful and destructive speech of the wicked is likened to venom.	Poison represents harmful words, false doctrines, and corrupt leadership (Matt 23:33) . Like venom, these lies spread subtly but are deadly . The Pharisees and Sadducees embodied this deceit in Jesus' time (John 8:44).
Psalm 58:5	"...like the deaf adder (H6620) that stoppeth her ear."	The wicked refuse to listen to truth, choosing deception instead.	The deaf adder symbolizes those who willfully reject divine wisdom . This is seen in Pharaoh hardening his heart against Moses (Exo 7–11) and Ahab refusing Elijah's warnings (1Kings 21) . The spiritually deaf cannot perceive divine truth (John 8:43) .
Psalm 140:3	"...They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent (H5175); adders' (H5919) poison is under their lips."	The slander and deception of evil men are as dangerous as a serpent's bite.	Words can be spiritually and socially destructive , just like snake venom . David prays for deliverance from both deceitful and violent adversaries (Rom 3:13) references this verse to show the universal corruption of speech.
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Proverbs 23:32	"...at the last it biteth like a serpent (H5175), and stingeth like an adder (H6848)."	Wine is compared to a serpent's bite—enticing at first but ultimately harmful.	The deceptive nature of alcohol is likened to a serpent's venom , symbolizing hidden dangers in overindulgence. Intoxication leads to loss of control and moral restraint (Isa 5:11, 5:22; Eph 5:18) . Just as wine itself, not a supernatural being, brings harm, our own choices lead to consequences .
Proverbs 30:19	"...the way of a serpent (H5175) upon a rock..."	The serpent leaves no trace, symbolizing secretive and deceptive actions.	Just as a serpent slithers across a rock without leaving a track, adultery is often committed in secrecy (Prov 30:20) . This also reflects cunning and hidden deception in moral corruption.
Ecclesiastes 10:8	"...whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent (H5175) shall bite him."	Violating divine or natural order invites consequences.	A hedge represents protective boundaries —whether moral laws, civil laws, or national structures . Those who recklessly remove these safeguards face self-inflicted harm , just as a serpent bites those who disturb its dwelling (Psa 125:3; Prov 25:28) .
Ecclesiastes 10:11	"...the serpent (H5175) will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better."	The destructive power of unchecked speech is like a serpent's unprovoked bite.	A gossiping or slanderous person , like a venomous serpent, strikes without warning . Their words poison relationships and reputations (Rom 3:13; Psa 140:3) . This verse also links slander to financial oppression , as "bite" (nashak) is also used for charging excessive interest on loans (Deut 23:19-20) .
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Isaiah 14:29	"...out of the serpent's (H5175) root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent (H8314/H5774)."	Successive conquering nations symbolized by different serpentine creatures.	The serpent, cockatrice, and fiery flying serpent represent successive rulers or empires that would rise to power. Interpretations vary, with some identifying them as Tiglath-Pileser (Assyria), Sennacherib, and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon) , while others see Nebuchadnezzar, the Medes-Persians, and Alexander's Macedonian empire . This mirrors prophetic patterns in Daniel (Dan 7) , where animals represent rising kingdoms . Another view sees Uzziah, Hezekiah, and Messiah , symbolizing a transition from judgment to redemption .

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Isaiah 27:1	"...Yahweh... shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent (H5175), even leviathan that crooked serpent (H5175); and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."	Leviathan symbolizes oppressive world powers, destined for divine judgment.	Leviathan (piercing and crooked serpent) represents earthly potentates, kings, and empires —Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, and beyond (Job 26:13, Psa 74:13-14, Eze 29:3). The dragon in the sea symbolizes nations or political powers opposing God (Rev 13:1, 17:15) . The sword of Yahweh signifies His divine judgment upon these oppressors , ensuring their downfall.
Isaiah 65:25	"...dust shall be the serpent's (H5175) meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain..."	The serpent represents the carnal, earthly-minded men destined for subjugation.	Dust as the serpent's meat symbolizes earthly, materialistic-minded people who remain bound to worldly pursuits (Gen 3:14, 1Cor 15:47-49) . In contrast, the wolf (Benjamin), lion (Judah), and bullock (Ephraim) represent the tribes living in peace and unity under Christ's reign. This prophecy reflects a Christian reformation era (800-1800 AD) , a time when Christian society flourished, free from adversarial influences . The holy mountain represents the Kingdom of God established in righteousness (Mic 4:1-3, Rev 20:6) .
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Jeremiah 8:17	"...I will send serpents (H5175), cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite (lend upon usury) you, saith Yahweh."	The Babylonian invaders are likened to serpents, symbolizing relentless and inescapable judgment.	The serpents and cockatrices represent the Chaldean army , whose attack is as fatal as the bite of venomous snakes . Just as serpents cannot be charmed, these adversaries cannot be placated or diverted . This imagery extends to modern times, where serpents that bite with usury are linked to financial oppression (Deut 23:19-20; Hab 2:6-7). Mystery Babylon (Rev 18:10-13) continues this economic subjugation, making usury a tool of enslavement .
Jeremiah 46:22	"...The voice (of Egypt) thereof shall go like a serpent (H5175)..."	Egypt's once-proud voice will be reduced to a fearful, subdued tone in humiliation.	The serpent's voice symbolizes Egypt's downfall and distress as Babylon advances . Like a serpent hissing in fear when cornered, Egypt's boastful pride turns to whispers of defeat (Isa 29:4) . The Chaldeans cut through Egypt like hewers of wood , leaving the nation broken and powerless . This mirrors historical cycles where empires fall from pride to subjugation (Jer 25:15-19; Eze 29:3-10) .
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Amos 5:19	"...or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent (H5175) bit him."	False religious security leads to destruction.	The lion (Babylon), the bear (Medes-Persians), and the serpent (false religion) represent inescapable judgment . Many falsely believe they are safe in ritualistic religion , but leaning on the wrong spiritual foundation results in destruction (Isa 60:18). Judeo-Christianity and denominationalism are a false wall that offers no true refuge (Matt 7:26-27).
Amos 9:3	"...though they be hid from My sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent (H5175), and he shall bite them."	Oppressive nations as the inescapable instruments of divine judgment.	The serpent represents cruel kings or empires executing God's inevitable judgment . Like those who fled to Mount Carmel or the depths of the sea, Israel could not escape Babylon's invasion . This reflects the inescapable nature of divine justice (Lev 26:33; Jer 16:16) , emphasizing that only repentance leads to deliverance .

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Micah 7:17	"...They shall lick the dust like a serpent (H5175), they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth..."	The enemies of Israel will be utterly humiliated and brought into submission before Yahweh.	Licking dust like a serpent is a sign of defeat and subjugation (Gen 3:14). The nations that opposed Israel in the last days prophecy (Mic 4:11) will be forced to acknowledge Yahweh's power . Emerging like worms suggests fearful submission , as they are driven from their hiding places , much like Pharaoh and Egypt were humbled in Exodus (Exo 15:14-16). This fulfills God's promise to vindicate His people and establish His rule over the nations (Psa 72:9; Isa 49:23).

The Symbolism of the *Serpent* (H5175 - נָחָשׁ *nachash*) in the Old Testament:

The Carnal Mind & Human Deception

- **Genesis 3:1-14** – The serpent represents the carnal mind's capacity for **self-deception, rationalization of sin, and subtle distortion of divine truth**. The serpent's role in the Garden of Eden exemplifies **how the human mind can justify sin and twist God's commandments**.
- **Genesis 3:13** – The woman blaming the serpent further reinforces this idea, as it mirrors the human tendency to shift responsibility instead of acknowledging wrongdoing.
- **Genesis 49:17** – The tribe of Dan, likened to a serpent, embodies **strategic cunning**, not necessarily as evil, but as possessing a calculated, subtle approach.

Political and Religious Oppression

- **Psalm 58:4; 140:3** – The serpent's poison represents **deceptive words and doctrines** of religious and political leaders who oppose divine truth.
- **Isaiah 14:29** – The metaphor of the serpent applies to **successive ruling kings or empires**, indicating oppressive powers.
- **Isaiah 27:1** – Leviathan, a "piercing and crooked serpent," is a symbol of **chaotic worldly rulers in opposition to God**.
- **Jeremiah 8:17; 46:22** – The serpent represents **foreign oppressors**, such as the Chaldeans and Egypt, bringing **subjugation, humiliation, and divine judgment**.
- **Amos 9:3** – The serpent symbolizes **oppressive kings** and unavoidable divine judgment.

A Symbol of Divine Authority and Miraculous Signs

- **Exodus 4:3, 7:8-15** – The serpent is used as a **miraculous sign** through Moses' rod, symbolizing **God's power over earthly rulers and His authority over creation**.
- **Numbers 21:6-9** – The fiery serpents represent **divine chastisement**, while the brass serpent lifted up prefigures **Christ's sacrifice** (John 3:14).

Judgment, Chaos, and Inevitable Consequences

- **Amos 5:19** – The serpent in the wall signifies **inescapable judgment**, much like false doctrine offering a deceptive refuge.
- **Micah 7:17** – Serpents represent **subjugated nations bowing to restored Israel**.
- **Ecclesiastes 10:8,11** – The serpent's bite warns against **tampering with established order**, whether in doctrine or rulership.

Earthly-Mindedness & Spiritual Separation

- **Genesis 3:14** – The cursed serpent, condemned to eat dust, represents **the carnal, earthly-minded man** who is devoid of spiritual fulfillment.
- **Isaiah 65:25** – The serpent's diet of dust continues this theme of **carnality and subjection to the material world**.

The Influence of Sin and Addiction

- **Proverbs 23:29-35** – Wine is likened to a serpent's bite, symbolizing **destructive habits** that bring harm and ruin.

Conclusion

The **serpent** in Scripture is a **multifaceted symbol**:

- It **primarily represents the carnal mind**—its deceitful reasoning, rationalization of sin, and departure from divine truth.
- It is used **politically and religiously** to symbolize **corrupt leaders, oppressive rulers, and false doctrines**.
- It signifies **judgment, chaos, and unavoidable consequences**, especially in the context of Divine chastisement.
- It also serves as a **miraculous sign of God's authority** when used in a positive context.

Rather than a singular, fixed meaning, the **serpent is a symbol of deception, oppression, judgment, and the consequences of rejecting divine truth**—whether it appears in the Garden, Egypt, Israel, or future prophetic visions.



NEW TESTAMENT

Serpent G3789 ophis

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Matthew 7:10	"...Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent (G3789 ophis)?"	The serpent represents false doctrine and spiritual deception.	Fish represents true Christian doctrine, while the serpent (ophis) symbolizes false teachings rooted in Luciferian wisdom and deception. Just as bread (Christ) is contrasted with a stone (idolatry, deception), the fish is contrasted with the serpent (Luke 11:11). The ophidian path reflects Jewry's Talmudic traditions and Gnostic enlightenment, offering false illumination rather than the true light of Jesus Christ. Those who reject truth are given over to delusion (2Thess 2:10-12), while those who seek righteousness will not receive deception (Matt 5:6).
Matthew 10:16	"...be ye therefore wise as serpents (G3789), and harmless as doves."	The serpent symbolizes wisdom, discernment, and strategic thinking in the face of opposition.	Unlike Matthew 7:10, where the serpent symbolizes false doctrine, here ophis represents wisdom and experience. Christ instructs His disciples to be sharp-sighted and cautious, much like Dan in Genesis 49:17, who is described as a serpent by the way, using strategy to overcome enemies. This wisdom is not deceitful craftiness but practical discernment—avoiding unnecessary dangers while maintaining innocence (Prov 14:15, 22:3). The dove symbolizes purity, ensuring that prudence is paired with integrity (Phil 2:15, Rom 16:19).
Matthew 23:33	"...Ye serpents (G3789), ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"	The serpent represents the hypocritical and corrupt religious leaders, aligned with deception and rebellion.	Jesus condemns the Pharisees and scribes as "serpents" (ophis) and "vipers," exposing them as crafty deceivers who obstruct the kingdom of God (Matt 23:13). Their false priesthood, rooted in traditions of men, is linked to Cain's rejection of blood atonement and Edom's treachery against Israel (Oba 1:10, Mal 1:4). Their spiritual lineage is rebellion, as seen in their rejection of Christ's sacrifice (John 8:44, Zec 14:21). Like their forefathers who killed the prophets, they would soon murder the Messiah, bringing judgment upon their generation (Matt 23:35-36, Luke 11:50-51).

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Mark 16:18	"They shall take up serpents (G3789)..."	Taking up serpents refers to confronting false doctrines and rebuking deceptive religious leaders.	This does not mean handling literal snakes, but rather exposing and refuting spiritual deception , much like Paul calling out false teachers (2Corinthians 11:13-15). The 'deadly thing' represents spiritual poison —false teachings that corrupt faith. True believers withstand these deceptions through discernment and truth (1John 4:1, Ephesians 6:17).
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Luke 10:19	"...I give unto you power to tread on serpents (G3789) and scorpions..."	The serpent represents the counterfeit Jewish priesthood and their corrupt doctrines .	Jesus grants His disciples authority over the adversary's power , including false religious leaders and their deceptive traditions (Matt 15:9, Col 2:8). The serpent (ophis) represents the scribes and Pharisees , whose craftiness and venomous influence (spiritually harmful doctrines) were a threat to true faith (Matt 23:33). Scorpions symbolize oppressive enforcers of false teachings (Eze 2:6). This authority aligns with Psalms 91:13 , where the righteous trample the serpent underfoot , signifying dominion over deception and persecution .
Luke 11:11	"...if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent (G3789)?"	The fish represents truth and Christian doctrine, while the serpent represents deception and false teaching.	Jesus contrasts God's goodness with deception, showing that those who seek truth will not receive lies. The serpent (ophis) symbolizes religious corruption , akin to the Pharisaic traditions (Matthew 7:10). In broader terms, it reflects the dual paths—truth vs. deception (Deuteronomy 30:19). God gives wisdom to those who ask (James 1:5), but those who reject it are given over to delusion (2Thessalonians 2:11).
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
John 3:14	"...as Moses lifted up the serpent (G3789) in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"	The serpent represents sin and judgment while also prefiguring Jesus' crucifixion as the means of salvation .	The bronze serpent in Numbers 21:6-9 symbolized the Israelites' sin and its deadly consequences (Romans 6:23). Yet, when lifted up, it became the means of healing —just as Jesus, though sinless, bore sin's curse on the cross (2Cor 5:21, Gal. 3:13). The Greek " ophis " (serpent) also means " learning by experience ", underscoring the lesson of faith and atonement . Looking at the serpent (Numbers 21:9) parallels faith in Christ for salvation (John 3:15, Isaiah 45:22). This passage connects the lifting up of the serpent to Jesus' crucifixion , demonstrating salvation through belief in Him .
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
1Corinthians 10:9	"...destroyed of serpents (G3789 ophis)."	The serpents in Numbers 21 symbolize divine judgment for rebellion, teaching the Israelites (and us) the consequences of doubting God's provision.	The Israelites' lack of faith and complaints against God led to a plague of fiery serpents as divine punishment (Num 21:4-6, Deut 8:15). These serpents (G3789 - <i>ophis</i>) represent the consequences of sin and disobedience. Paul references this event as a warning that testing Christ through unbelief brings judgment (Exo 17:2, Psa 78:17-18). The parallel between serpents in the wilderness and sin's consequences aligns with Jesus' teaching in John 3:14—just as the Israelites had to look upon the bronze serpent for healing, salvation comes by faith in Christ. This passage ultimately warns against repeating Israel's mistakes of unbelief and rebellion (Heb 3:12-14, Jude 1:5).

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
2Corinthians 11:3	"...as the serpent (G3789 - ophis) beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."	The serpent symbolizes deception and seduction away from truth, warning against false teachers corrupting faith.	Paul warns the Corinthians against being led astray by cunning false teachers , just as Eve was deceived by the serpent (whether her own mind and reasoning, or someone else bringing <i>another gospel</i>) (Gen 3:1-6). The ' simplicity ' (G572 – haplotes) refers to sincere and undivided devotion to Christ , which is at risk of corruption. False apostles use persuasive arguments and worldly philosophy to distort the gospel (Col 2:8), replacing pure faith with deception (Gal 1:6-9). Revelation 12:9 identifies the ' serpent ' as an adversary who deceives the world, paralleling Paul's warning about those who preach ' another Jesus ' (2Cor 11:4). Paul's concern is that, like Eve, believers may be lured by subtle reasoning and accept a counterfeit message, losing their sincere faith in Christ (1Tim 2:14). The contrast between 'subtilty' and 'simplicity' emphasizes that faith should remain singularly focused on Jesus, without corruption from external influences.
Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Revelation 9:19	"...for their tails were like unto serpents (G3789), and had heads, and with them they do hurt."	The serpent -like tails symbolize deception, false doctrines, and organized spiritual corruption.	The power in their mouths represents propaganda, lies, and manipulation—whether religious (false teachers) or political (oppressive regimes). The "heads" suggest leadership over these deceptive movements. This aligns with the deceitful nature of the serpent in Genesis 3:1 and the oppressive , misleading power structures warned about in Revelation 12:9 and 2Corinthians 11:3. The connection to military-political forces, such as the Saracens and the rise of Islam, also ties into this theme of conquest through deception and force.
Revelation 12:9	"...that old serpent (G3789), called the Devil (G1228), and Satan (G4567), which deceiveth the whole world..."	The serpent represents oppressive political and religious powers that work against God's people, not a supernatural being.	The ' dragon ' and ' serpent ' (G3789 – ophis) symbolize corrupt leadership, oppressive systems, and human adversaries rather than a literal being. ' Devil ' (G1228 – diabolos) refers to false accusers and slanderers (John 6:70, 1Tim 3:11), highlighting characteristics of opposition . ' Satan ' (G4567 – satanas) means adversary in a general sense, often used for human opponents (Matt 16:23). The ' casting down ' of the dragon represents a political fall, not a literal expulsion from heaven , similar to the fall of Babylon's king (Isa 14:12-15) and the symbolic downfall of leaders (Matt 24:29). This passage emphasizes deception as a key strategy of these oppressive forces, mirroring how false leaders mislead people throughout history (2Thess 2:9-10). Capitalization of 'Devil' and 'Satan' in traditional translations creates a bias toward a personal entity , but these terms are descriptive, not proper names .
Revelation 12:14	"...to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness... from the face of the serpent (G3789)."	The woman represents the children of Israel migrating into Europe, where they are protected and nourished with the gospel.	The woman represents Israel, Jacob's descendants , migrating through the Caucasus Mountains into Europe, where they received the gospel. The eagle's wings symbolize God's protection and deliverance , as seen in Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:11. 'Time, times, and half a time' refers to 1260 years , representing the period of Papal dominance , where God's people were spiritually sustained in the wilderness. This passage parallels Israel's exodus and divine guidance throughout history, reinforcing God's covenant with His people.
Revelation 12:15	"...the serpent (G3789) cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."	The flood represents false doctrines, invasions, or overwhelming opposition meant to destroy true followers.	The serpent (G3789 – ophis) casting a flood symbolizes deceptive doctrines, military invasions, or mass migrations aimed at overwhelming and destroying God's people. Proverbs 18:4 equates words to deep waters , suggesting that the flood represents corrupt teachings and heresies . Historically, the period between Constantine and the rise of modern Judeo-Christianity saw waves of false doctrines and persecutions targeting true believers. This flood also aligns with Isaiah 59:19 , where the enemy comes in ' like a flood ,' but God raises a standard against it.

Verse	Snippet of the Verse	Meaning	Why? (Concise Explanation with Supporting Verses)
Revelation 20:2	"...he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent (G3789 <i>ophis</i>), which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."	The serpent (dragon, Devil, Satan) is a symbol for corrupt world powers, rulers, and opposition to God's kingdom.	The terms dragon, serpent (G3789 - ophis), Devil (G1228 - diabolos), and Satan (G4567 – satanas) are symbolic representations of opposition to God , whether through thoughts, doctrines, human rulers, empires, or world systems . The 'binding for a thousand years' represents a prolonged period of restrained adversarial influence , often associated with the rise of Christian authority in Europe. During this time, Christianity became dominant , restricting Jewish and anti-Christian influences (Rev 3:9). The Holy Roman Empire (800–1798 AD) is commonly seen as the period of Satan's restraint, marked by legal restrictions against Jewish usury, public office, and influence (Codex Justinianus, 529 AD) . The Napoleonic Wars (1798–1804) symbolize the release of Satan , as Jewish financial and political power resurged, particularly through Rothschild banking influence in Europe . The fall of papal authority (Napoleon's self-coronation, 1804) effectively ended Christian dominance over these adversarial forces. The symbolic 'thousand years' is not a literal timeframe but a long, undefined period of Christian supremacy before the resurgence of opposition .

The Symbolism of the *Serpent* (G3789 – ὄφις) in the New Testament

The **serpent** (*ophis*) in the NT continues the **symbolic themes from the OT**, emphasizing deception, false doctrine, corrupt leadership, and opposition to God's people. The serpent represents:

False Doctrine and Deception

- **Matthew 7:10** – The serpent here symbolizes **false teachings** or **corrupt spiritual nourishment**. Jesus warns against replacing the bread of life with something harmful.
- **2Corinthians 11:3** – The serpent represents **deception and seduction away from divine truth**. Just as Eve was deceived, Paul warns that believers may be led astray by false teachings.
- **Revelation 12:14-15** – The serpent spews a flood, symbolizing **false doctrines, propaganda, or overwhelming persecution** aimed at destroying the faithful.

Cunning Wisdom and Discernment

- **Matthew 10:16** – The serpent represents **wisdom, shrewdness, and strategic thinking**. Jesus instructs His disciples to be as **wise as serpents** but as **innocent as doves**, meaning they should navigate the world with **discernment** while remaining morally upright.

Corrupt Religious and Political Leaders

- **Matthew 23:33** – The serpent represents **corrupt religious leaders**, specifically the **Pharisees and Sadducees**. Jesus calls them a “generation of vipers,” exposing their **hypocrisy, deception, and spiritual corruption**.
- **Revelation 12:9; 20:2**– The serpent (along with the dragon, Devil, and Satan) represents **corrupt world powers, false religious systems, and adversarial leadership** that work against God's people.
 - In **Revelation 12:9**, the great serpent deceives the nations, pointing to **false political and religious authorities** that mislead people.
 - In **Revelation 20:2**, the binding of the serpent signifies the **temporary suppression of oppressive world powers**, particularly those that oppose God's kingdom.

Judgment and Divine Punishment

- **1Corinthians 10:9** – The serpent is a reference to **Numbers 21:6-9**, where the Israelites were judged with fiery serpents for their rebellion. This reinforces the serpent as a **symbol of divine retribution** for straying from God's commandments.
- **John 3:14** – The **bronze serpent** lifted in the wilderness becomes a symbol of **healing and redemption**. Jesus likens Himself to the **bronze serpent**, signifying that those who look to Him in faith will be **saved and spiritually healed**.

The Serpent as an Adversary to God's People

- **Revelation 12:9; 12:14-15** – The serpent is a symbol of **political and religious adversaries** who seek to destroy God's people.

- **Revelation 20:2** – The serpent represents **corrupt world rulers and oppressive powers** such as:
 - The **Jewish Pharisees** and **Sadducees** (traditions of men making void the Word of God)
 - The **Holy Roman Empire** (blending of all heathen religions)
 - **Heathen nations** (judgment and punishing rods)
 - **Bankers** (financial oppression)
 - **Illegal immigration** (geopolitical forces undermining stability)

Conclusion: The Serpent as a Symbol of Opposition to God

In the **New Testament**, the **serpent continues to represent deception, corrupt leaders, and opposition to God's people**. However, it also carries **nuanced meanings**, depending on the context:

- **Negative:** It represents **false doctrine, corrupt leadership, deception, and divine judgment**.
- **Positive:** It symbolizes **wisdom and discernment when used correctly** (Matthew 10:16).
- **Redemptive:** The **bronze serpent** prefigures **Jesus' crucifixion and salvation** (John 3:14).

The **NT serpent is primarily a metaphor for human adversaries**—false teachers, oppressive rulers, deceptive religious systems, and corrupt institutions—rather than a supernatural entity.

The overall analysis suggests a strong case for the *serpent* being a metaphor for both:

1. **Characteristics of the devil (G1228):** Deception, subtlety, slander, and false teachings — aligning with the **carnal mind's** ability to rationalize and deceive.
2. **Role of satan (G4567):** Adversarial opposition to God's truth — represented by **corrupt political and religious systems, false doctrines, and oppressive rulers**.

Key Observations:

Deceptive Characteristics (Devil - G1228):

- **Genesis 3:** The serpent's dialogue with Eve emphasizes **subtlety and deception**, reflecting the **carnal mind's rationalization** of sin.
- **Proverbs 23:29-35:** Wine as a biting serpent aligns with the **corrupting influence** of false doctrines.
- **2Corinthians 11:3:** Deception and seduction away from truth fit the **slanderer** aspect of *devil*.

Adversarial Role (Satan - G4567):

- **Isaiah 27:1 and Revelation 12:** The serpent as **Leviathan** or **oppressive powers** emphasizes a **collective adversarial role** against God's people.
- **Revelation 12:14-15:** The flood from the serpent symbolizes **false doctrines and overwhelming opposition** — fitting the **adversarial role**.
- **Jeremiah 46:22:** Egypt's voice as a serpent highlights **subjugation and defeat**, fitting the **opposition aspect of satan**.

The Carnal Mind Hypothesis:

- My theory that the serpent in Genesis represents **Eve's own mind and carnal reasoning** aligns well with the **characteristics of the devil** — deception, rationalization, and justification of sin.

Conclusion: Dual Metaphor — Serpent as Both Devil and Satan:

- **Serpent (H5175 and G3789)** appears to be a **dual metaphor**:
 - **As Devil (G1228):** Emphasizes **deceptive characteristics** — lies, rationalizations, and false teachings.
 - **As Satan (G4567):** Emphasizes the **role of (or as) an adversary** — political and religious systems opposing God's truth.
- **Does the Theory Hold Up?:** The serpent seems to embody both the **carnal mind's deception** and the **adversarial role** of opposition.

Serpent (H5175 and G3789) Chart – Testing Devil and Satan Interpretations

Verse	Verse Snippet	Characteristic Interpretation (Devil - G1228)	Adversarial Role Interpretation (Satan - G4567)
Genesis 3:1	<i>Serpent was more subtil than any beast...</i>	Represents deception and subtlety of the carnal mind.	Adversarial role opposing God's command through deception.
Genesis 3:2	<i>Woman has conversation with the serpent...</i>	Reasoning with carnal mind's rationalization of sin.	Role of an adversary through subtle persuasion.
Genesis 3:3	<i>Woman says to serpent they will die if they take...</i>	Carnal mind's distortion of divine instructions.	Adversary's role in opposing God's truth.
Genesis 3:4	<i>Serpent lies to the woman...</i>	Deceptive assurance by the carnal mind.	Adversarial role misleading humanity from God's truth.
Genesis 3:13	<i>Woman blames serpent...</i>	Shifting blame to justify sin, a characteristic of deception.	Adversarial role of accusation and shifting blame.
Genesis 3:14	<i>God curses serpent...</i>	Condemnation of the carnal mind's earthly focus.	Adversary condemned to earthly role, opposition to God.
Genesis 49:17	<i>Serpent symbolizes tribe of Dan...</i>	Subtlety and cunning as deceptive characteristics.	Adversarial role through subtle influence (tribe of Dan).
Numbers 21:6-9	<i>Fiery serpents among the people...</i>	Fiery serpents symbolize the corrupting influence of sin.	Adversarial role of judgment and opposition by God.
Isaiah 27:1	<i>Leviathan the piercing serpent...</i>	Leviathan as deception by religious and political systems.	Leviathan as adversarial political and religious systems.
Jeremiah 46:22	<i>Serpent, the voice of Egypt...</i>	Egypt's voice as deceptive influence and corruption.	Egypt as adversary opposing God's people.
Amos 9:3	<i>Serpent, symbol of oppressive kings...</i>	Symbol of deceptive rulership and oppression.	Adversary symbolizing inescapable judgment.
Matthew 10:16	<i>Wise as serpents...</i>	Serpent as wisdom can imply subtle deception.	Adversarial role in strategic opposition.
Matthew 23:33	<i>Serpent represents corrupt priesthood...</i>	Deception and hypocrisy of the Pharisees.	Pharisees as adversarial role opposing Jesus' mission.
John 3:14	<i>As Moses lifted up the serpent...</i>	Serpent as symbol of sin's corruption and healing.	Adversarial role symbolizing judgment and salvation.
2Corinthians 11:3	<i>Serpent symbolizes deception...</i>	Deception of Eve by subtlety, a characteristic of <i>devil</i> .	Adversary's role in deceiving and opposing truth.
Revelation 12:9	<i>That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...</i>	Deceptive influence of oppressive systems.	Oppressive systems as adversaries to God's people.
Revelation 12:14-15	<i>Serpent represents adversaries of God's people...</i>	Serpent's flood as false doctrines and deception.	Adversarial systems opposing true believers.
Revelation 20:2	<i>That old serpent, the Devil, and Satan...</i>	Symbol of world powers' deception and corruption.	Adversarial world powers opposing God's kingdom.

The *Serpent* (H5175 and G3789) Chart above compares:

1. **Characteristic Interpretation (Devil – G1228):** Emphasizing deception, subtlety, and the carnal mind.
2. **Adversarial Role Interpretation (Satan – G4567):** Emphasizing opposition to God's truth through political and religious systems.

It appears that in context they can mean either or. The *serpent* appears to serve as a **dual metaphor**:

- **As *devil* (G1228):** It emphasizes the **deceptive characteristics** of the **carnal mind** — such as lies, rationalizations, and slander.
- **As *satan* (G4567):** It emphasizes the **adversarial role** — opposing God's truth through **corrupt systems, false doctrines, and political or religious powers**.

Key Insight: Dual Usage Based on Context

- In **Genesis 3**, the *serpent* leans more towards the **deceptive characteristics** of the *devil* (G1228) — embodying the **carnal mind's rationalizations**.
- In **Revelation and Isaiah**, the *serpent* shifts towards the **adversarial role** of *satan* (G4567) — symbolizing **oppressive systems and rulers**.
- **Overall:** The context seems to dictate which aspect (characteristics vs. role) is emphasized.

Conclusion: Serpent as Both Devil and Satan

- The *serpent* can **mean either** — or even **both simultaneously**:
 - **Deceptive characteristics (devil):** Lies, rationalization, slander.
 - **Adversarial role (satan):** Opposition, persecution, corrupt systems.

This **dual meaning** aligns perfectly with the theory that the *serpent* in Genesis could represent **Eve's own mind (carnal reasoning)** while also playing an **adversarial role** against God's truth.

When you examine the DEVIL and SATAN Charts, there really is no dual role. The verses with '**devil**' highlight the **characteristics** of all those who will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. The verses with '**satan**' highlight the **role** of, or as, an adversary to God, His People, and Kingdom.

Link to Full Study

DEVIL SATAN SERPENT <https://www.thinkoutsidethebeast.com/devil-satan-serpent/>

DEVIL SATAN SERPENT <https://www.ageoflaodicea.com/devil-satan-serpent/>

Charts can be found on the Study document under the audio links.