



Even though it can be easily caught with your hands, **“it is in kings’ palaces”** (Proverbs 30:28). The wisdom of this creature is that it knows where it ought to be. If it is to find warmth, food, and safety it would do well to enter the palace of a king.

On a spiritual level we need to follow the wisdom of the lizard. We need to find the warmth, food, and safety of our King’s palace and stay there. While Jesus was still a young boy he said to his troubled parents, **“Why is it that you were**

looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). The mindset of our Lord ought to be ours as well. Is it our desire to be in the house of our King? Do we truly **“hunger and thirst”** for the things of God (Matthew 5:6)? That is what will motivate us to act like the lizard and find a place in the Palace of our King.

Conclusion

To act with the wisdom and knowledge of God throughout life should be the Christian’s aim. **“Fools despise wisdom and knowledge”** (Proverbs 1:7). Why then would we ignore the plain instruction of God on how to be wise.

We must grow to attain the wisdom of the ant, shephanim, locusts, and lizard. The ant works hard in preparation for the future; so should we prepare for our eternal future. The shephanim finds refuge in the rocks; so should we find refuge in our God. The locusts swarm together in unity; so should we be united with one another. The lizard finds himself enjoying the luxuries of palace life; so should we enter the palace of our King. May we grow in the wisdom that God’s creation exemplifies for us.



Faithful Sayings Issue 15.30 July 28, 2013

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

15.30

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

July 28,
2013



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Four Little Things

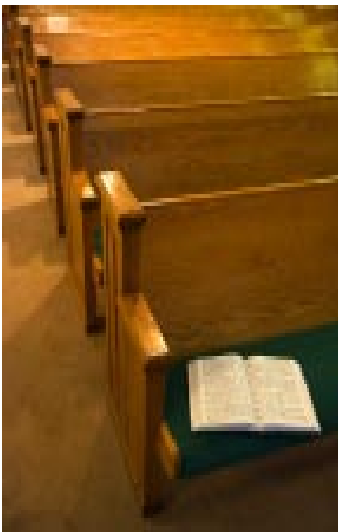
By Andrew Dow

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1, NASB). Upon completing each aspect of His creation, the Creator simply stated that **“it was very good”** (Genesis 1:31). Everything that has been created is very good, and it is all here for a purpose. Our Lord’s creation teaches us and instructs us in eternally important matters. While Job responded to his friends, **“ask the beasts, and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you”** (Job 12:7-8). The psalmist also writes, **“the heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands”** (Psalm 19:1). Creation is personified in these passages as one who tells us of its Creator and teaches us of His ways. Certainly it is for us to listen and discern what nature says.

“Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore... He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; HE SPOKE ALSO OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS AND CREEPING THINGS AND FISH” (1 Kings 4:29-34, emphasis mine). The wisdom of Solomon was known and sought out by some of the world’s most influential people (1 Kings 10). We are told of the many proverbs and songs that he composed, but his topic choice is interesting.

We are told that he, the man who possessed a God-given wisdom, spoke of *trees, animals, birds, creeping things, and fish*. Are these not the very things that Job and the Psalmist encouraged us to look toward?

The book of Proverbs is full of observations concerning our Lord's creation. The inspired wisdom found in these books turns to nature (trees, water, animals, etc.) to make profound parallels to life. One such parallel is found in Proverbs 30:24-28: **"Four things are small on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: The**



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ants are not a strong people, but they prepare their food in the summer; The shephanim are not mighty people, yet they make their houses in rocks; The locusts have no king, yet all of them go out in ranks; The lizard you may grasp with the hands, yet it is in kings' palaces." Let us examine for a few minutes what wisdom can be gleaned from Jehovah's creation.

"The ants are not a strong people..." (vs. 25).

The first little creature which is observed is the ant. We understand the fragile nature of ants. We are certainly familiar with the scene of a freshly harassed ant bed. We can rid ourselves of these creatures by simply stepping on them. The ant is by no means strong, but they have something better than strength: *wisdom*. Despite their lack of strength, **"they prepare their food in the summer"** (Proverbs 30:25; cf. 6:6-8). Ants are exceptional workers, but their work is for the future. They prepare food in the summer so that they may eat in the winter.

We would do well to imitate the wisdom of the ants. The prophet Amos spoke to the children of Israel saying, **"prepare to meet they God, O Israel"** (Amos 4:12). Are we not to have the same mindset? Should we not always be prepared to meet our God? Jesus speaks a parable in Matthew 25 of ten virgins awaiting a bridegroom (vss. 1-13). We are told that five of the virgins were prepared, but the other five were unprepared for the coming of the bridegroom. The warning Jesus provides at the end of this parable is one desperately needed today: **"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour"** (Matthew 25:13). We need to be prepared for the coming of our Lord, we need to be prepared like the ant.

"The shephanim are not mighty people..." (vs. 26).

The next animal considered is the shephanim (NASB), the coney (ASV), or the rock badger (NKJV). These three refer to the same creature, also known as a Syrian hyrax. These creatures are small, furry animals resembling rabbits to some degree. However, what

becomes important about them is their home. The author of the proverb contrasts their weakness with the fact that **"they make their houses in the rocks"** (Proverbs 30:26). Doesn't true wisdom tell us to find strong, secure places for our homes? Should we not imitate these creatures in a spiritual sense?

David speaks of the Lord by saying, **"In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed; In your righteousness deliver me. Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a ROCK OF STRENGTH, a stronghold to save me. For You are MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS; For Your name's sake you will lead me and guide me"** (Psalm 31:1-3, emphasis mine). David understood the need for God. God is the one in whom we are to make our home. The New Testament speaks of the rock which we are to build upon (Matthew 7:24-27). That rock can be none other than our Lord. Let us learn the lesson that God's creation would have us to learn.

"The locusts have no king..." (vs. 27).

The next creature brought to our notice is the locust. Locusts, much like our grasshoppers, are small creatures. Locusts swarm in sometimes enormous numbers and are known to consume food as they go. Because of this, locust swarms can be devastating to crops in some areas of the world. This is evident by the plague God sent upon Egypt in the time of Moses (Exodus 10:1-20). What is amazing about locusts is that **"all of them go out in ranks"** despite the fact that they have no one to organize them (Proverbs 30:27). The locusts are a united people.

We are often told that strength lies in numbers, but if a great number of people cannot work together and be united there is no real strength. The Church as God designed it is to be united. Paul said that we are to be **"diligent to preserve the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT in the bond of peace. There**

is ONE body and ONE Spirit, just as also you were called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:3-5, emphasis mine). Can you imagine a swarm of locusts that is divided, going in different directions, and with different aims? Paul exhorted the Church at Corinth to **"agree... that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment"** (1 Corinthians 1:10). We must be united as the wisdom of the locusts shows us.

"The lizard you may grasp with the hands..." (vs. 28).

The proverb finally turns to focus on the wisdom of the lizard (spider, NKJV). What can be learned from a creature as small as a lizard? It is a creature that is easily captured by even the youngest of children. Lizards are small, fragile creatures, yet note where they spend their time.