



'...ye shall see
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John 1 v 51

Snakes and Ladders

The board game 'Snakes and Ladders' is loved by children all over the world. Having originated in India, there was a time when 'Snakes and Ladders' was not played just for fun. Ideas of morality were tied into the game, with the thought being that, if you do good, you will go up and get a heavenly reward, but if you do bad you will go down and be punished.

God's Word makes it clear that such thinking is not right. The Bible says that we are all born as sinners, and therefore we are already on that slippery downwards slope that leads to eternal punishment. No amount of good works on our part will remove the condemnation we find ourselves under. However, the goodness of the Lord Jesus and the work that He did on the cross is our only means of salvation and a heavenly reward ... and it is all

connected with 'Snakes and Ladders' - the 'Snakes and Ladders' of the Bible!

Snakes or serpents, as they are referred to in the Bible, have from the very beginning had strong associations with sin, temptation, and Satan. In the garden of Eden, the Devil came in the form of a serpent and with great subtlety tempted Eve and then Adam into eating the forbidden fruit. Having disobeyed God, suddenly everything changed, not just for Adam, but for all mankind forever. We are all on the same slippery downwards slope, and no amount of doing good can change that.

So, what do we do? How can we get away from the punishment we rightly deserve for our wrongdoing? Well, just as it is in the game of 'Snakes and Ladders', we need a ladder. We need to get onto that ladder and up and away to safety. In John 1:51, the Lord Jesus made it clear that He

was that ladder when He said, '...ye shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.'

The Saviour was referring here to an incident in Genesis. A young man called Jacob was on the run. A life of cheating and trickery had turned everyone against him. Worn-out, and with nightfall coming, Jacob lay down to rest. Jacob knew that his sinful behaviour had shut him out, not just from his family, but from God and from heaven. In a dream, God showed Jacob a ladder that reached from earth to heaven. Jacob realised that there was a way back to God. That ladder was and still is the Son of God. By faith, all who step onto Him will be carried safely and upwardly to heaven. I wonder where you stand today, on the snake or on the ladder? ■

QUIZ

QUIZ

As well as being a ladder, the Lord Jesus had many other descriptive titles. Which of the titles (right) does not describe the Saviour?



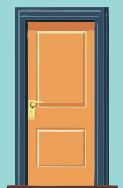
LIGHT

BREAD



LAMB

DOOR



KEY



Helpful references:

John 10v9, John 1v29, John 6v35, John 8v12

ANSWER:

Are you 12 or under?

Send your answer, name, address and church to:
Rev Garth Wilson e: answer@fpvision.org