

LORD OF THE FLIES

2 Kings 1:2-4 ² And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of **Baalzebul** the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. ³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of **Baalzebul** the god of Ekron? ⁴ Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.

Mark 3:22-27 ²² And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath **Beelzebul**, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. ²³ And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. ²⁷ No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

Beelzebul is the NT derivative of the name of the OT Philistine god Baalzebul, worshipped at the city of Ekron and consulted by King Ahaziah. The name is a compound form of Baal, a Philistine word for "lord." When Israel backslid, they named their children after Baal: Jerubbaal, Eshbaal, Merib-baal. In times of revival, they repented and replaced "baal" with "bosheth" (meaning "shame"): Jerubbesheth, Ish-bosheth, Mephibosheth. Note that just as the true God Jehovah had compound names, so did the false god Baal:

Baal-tamar (lord of the palm tree)	Jehovah Rapha (The Lord, Our Healer)
Baal-berith (lord of the covenant)	Jehovah Elohim (The Lord, Our Creator)
Baal-gad (lord of good fortune)	Jehovah Elyon (The Lord, Our Blessor)
Baal-hamon (lord of wealth)	Jehovah Jireh (The Lord, Our Provider)
Baal-meon (lord of the dwelling)	Jehovah Raah (The Lord, Our Shepherd)
Baal-peor (lord of the opening)	Jehovah Nissi (The Lord, Our Banner)

Baalzebul meant "Lord of the flies" or "Lord of things that fly" and was believed to be the prince of the evil spirits; the name was later changed to Baalzebul meaning "the dung god." This title designated Israel's loathing of the prince of all moral impurities, and was later used appropriately as a name for the devil (Beelzebul) by the Pharisees and Jesus.

The licentious character of Baal worship always had a subtle attraction for the austere Hebrews bound to serve a holy God under a rigorous moral code; so it is with sin in our world today!

The Pharisees called Beelzebul "the ruler of the demons" and the Jews taught that every heathen idol was a demon; this was not true, but idols could be used by demons to deceive people (1 Corinthians 10:19-20).

Everything bad that happens to us is not directly caused by demons; however, the potential is there for bad things to be used by demons to oppress us! Beware of extremes on either side!

Demons do have a certain pattern of operation; the title "Beelzebul" ("Lord of the Flies") is not accidental!

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FLIES are found throughout the world, but proliferate (ie: size & variety) in moist, warm climates; they reproduce by laying many eggs in decaying animal flesh, dung or pond water, to assure their offspring adequate food.

DEMONS operate best in a climate of sin, negativism, doubt, etc. Sin actually multiplies when you give it the right environment because it feeds on spiritual decay.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

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FLIES have compound eyes with up to 4000 facets; they do not see images, but pick up light changes and sudden movements.

DEMONS cannot read your mind, but they can observe your reaction to temptation.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

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FLIES have sharp mouthparts to pierce skin, drain fluid, and conduct saliva into the wound to keep blood from coagulating.

DEMONS prevent the blood from working in your life when you are "pierced & drained" through a "wound."

Proverbs 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

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FLIES achieve maturity not by direct growth, but by metamorphosis through several definite and distinct stages; they live as parasites.

DEMONS gain inroads into your life through the sins you permit, and sin never grows as slowly or predictably as you think; it won't let go easily.

James 1:14-16 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

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FLIES carry deadly diseases and have the potential to destroy crops.

DEMONS cause division and take our focus from the harvest.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

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FLIES are pesky and persistent creatures!

DEMONS are fierce fighters!

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

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FLIES have a short life span (under 40 days, less at higher temperature).

DEMONS cannot outlast effectual fervent prayer!

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.