

What does the scripture, They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them mean?

**Mark 16:15-18**

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

18 **They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

**Luke 10:17-20**

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

19 **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

20 **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

Clearly from this passage the serpents and scorpions reference is not meant to be taken as literal snakes and scorpions, but identifies the serpents and scorpions as devils, then in verse 20 states, but don't rejoice because you have power over spirits, but rather that your name is in the Lamb's book of life.

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