



How Does a Snake 'See' in the Dark?

We can't usually see in the dark. Why not? You're probably thinking, "Because there's no light!"

Well, actually, you're wrong...there's lots of light, it's just not the type that we normally use to see with! Let's talk a bit about light and start with the sun.

Our sun is a ball of mainly hydrogen gas. Inside the sun, burning hydrogen releases electromagnetic radiation. Visible light, the red-to-violet colours of the rainbow, is one type of electromagnetic radiation. We use it to see.

Another type of electromagnetic radiation is infrared light. We can't use infrared light to see, but when it is absorbed by our skin, we sense it as heat. Any warm object (like a pot of tea or a person) will release infrared light, but only hot objects (like the sun, a light bulb filament, or a wood fire) release visible light.

A snake's eyes also use visible light to see. But some, such as rattlesnakes, have something extra - pit organs. These are little pits near the nostrils. Infrared light from the snake's surroundings enter the pits and are converted into electrical signals. These signals then go through other nerves to the same part of the brain where signals from its eyes are sent.

Because a mouse is warmer than the background around it, the infrared light it releases is different than that released by the background. You can think of it as the mouse having different infrared colours than the background. So, if there was a mouse in the dark, even though we can't see it, the snake, using its pit organs, can "see" the mouse...and then have a tasty snack!

The ability of some snakes to see in the dark by making use of a type of light that is in the dark reminds me of another light that we read of in the Bible.

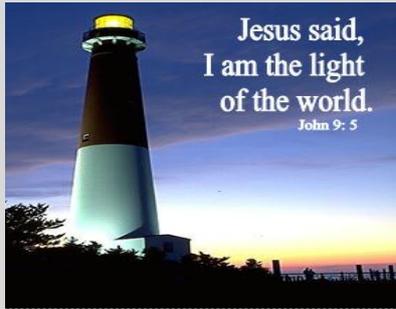
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

If we don't know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, it's as if we are walking in darkness. To walk in darkness is to live a life that is apart from God, condemned by God for our sin (**John 3:18**).

John 1:9 tells us that the true Light, the Lord Jesus, is come into the world. Like the infrared light, this Light is constantly shining in the darkness (**John 1:5**) and will make what is in the dark, our sins, visible to us (**John 3:20**). When we learn about the Lord Jesus in the Bible, we begin to understand how sinful we are, just as when a light shines and shows us something we couldn't see before. When we trust Christ as our Saviour, the problem of our sin is taken care of and we no longer walk in darkness.

**May you discover that the
Lord Jesus, this Light, is
available for you today!**

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



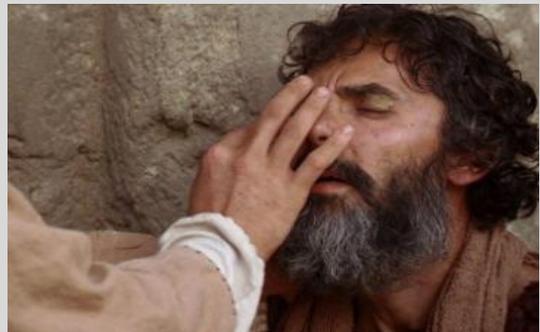
Jesus said, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

Many sincere, well intentioned people look upon Christians simply as individuals who have overestimated the claims of Christ. With a benevolent condescending manner, they are willing to admit Christ to the higher echelon of historical figures. With little hesitation, they would place Him among the great leaders and statesmen of history. They would never attempt to deny His impact upon the world today.

The Christian however finds great difficulty in assigning a niche in history to Christ. The very statements of the Bible seem to prohibit any such practice. If we are to understand words for what they are worth, and we must; if words were given to convey truth, and they were; how then can we hear the Lord Jesus say, "I am the light of the world" and suppose that He is claiming anything less than peerless value? The very expression from any living statesman would be ludicrous. Can you a Churchill, Roosevelt, Kennedy or other western leader claiming such importance? No man can ever hope to be a light to more than a few followers, and that perhaps only for a brief time.

Here however is a man Who stepped into history from eternity and claims to be the "true light," John 1:9; "the light of the world," John 8:12, that assures men of the light of life; the light that every man can follow for all time, John 12:46.

There can be no neutralizing of His claims. He is either what He claimed to be or not. In John 9, we encounter a blind man who receives his sight from the Lord Jesus Christ. As is often the case in our Bibles, God uses a miracle in the natural sphere to teach a deeper spiritual lesson. Make no mistake about the reality of the miracle. Its main purpose, however, resides in the spiritual lesson taught from it. The chapter closes with religious leaders questioning their spiritual sight. Bracketed between the natural and spiritual blindness is the clear bold statement of the Lord Jesus: "I am the light of the world" (vs. 5).



Consider the implication of His words.

If He is the light of the world, then every other light is of value only to the degree that it reflects what He has said. It is not to a religion, church, philosophy, or movement that I can turn for truth, but a person who in His life has revealed reality. If He is the light of life, then true life can only be found in His light.

Every life which shrinks from the light, cowering in selfishness or stubbornness, never knows true life.

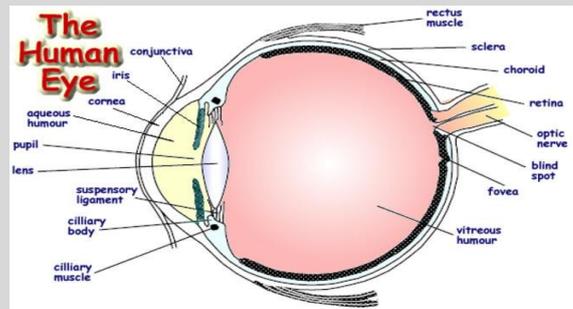
The chapter closes with men who refused to own His light. The great question was their sin. They refused to own that before God they were sinners in need of redemption. They professed "perfect vision" in spiritual matters. Christ said, "you say 'we see', therefore your sin remains" (vs. 41). All of us pride ourselves in insight, wisdom, a sense of what is right. Some may call it common sense.

Ask a man about eternal life and the way to heaven and he will gladly tell you what he thinks. But this is just the problem. The Lord Jesus is telling us all that what we think is all of equal value. It is worth nothing. We must learn spiritual values from Him.

His light revealed the issue of sin. Men have coined many terms and names to avoid the stigma of the word sin. Christ dragged it from its concealed corner and brought it out into the open. His light revealed that men must own their helplessness before a Holy God, the justice of God's judgment on their sin. His light revealed that only by His atoning death on Calvary can men be made right with God. Every life not brought into His light is wasted. Every thought and opinion not subjected to His light is vain. Every hope for eternity not built upon His light is doomed to destruction. May every reader soberly ponder the implication of the claims of Christ. They can be submitted to or refused, but they cannot be refuted. A.J. Higgins, M.D.

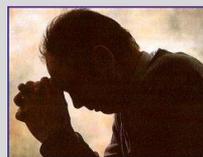
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN EYE

- The world's most common eye colour is brown.
- You see with your brain, not your eyes. Our eyes function like a camera, capturing light and sending data back to the brain.
- 20/20 vision simply means that you have normal vision.
- The human eye can see 500 shades of grey.
- Our eyes are made up of over 200 million working parts.
- The human eye only sees three colours, red, blue and green. All other colours are combination of these.



- The eye muscles are the most active muscles in the human body.
- Your eyes have round 107 million light sensitive cells.
- Your eyes have 7 million cones which help you see colour and detail, as well as 100 million cells called rods which help you to see better in the dark.
- Eyes are the second most complex organ after the brain.
- You see things upside down - it is your brain which turns the image the right way up
- While a fingerprint has 40 unique characteristics, an iris has 256.

POINT TO PONDER



*If He is the light of life,
then true life can only
be found in His light*

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