



## CONSIDER THE BUTTERFLY



*They arrive in the spring and leave in the fall. Many make special collections of them and proudly put them on display. They are a beautiful creature, loved by many. There are special spiritual lessons that we can learn from them, believe it or not.*



By Jerry Healan



**S**pring is a marvelous time of the year. It is a time of new birth, new growth and regeneration. New things are brought forth as seeds germinate and sprout into trees, flowers, grasses, grains and, yes, even weeds.

### A WONDROUS CHANGE

The caterpillar eventually reaches to a good size and a biological clock tells it that enough is enough. It finds a suitable place, spins a cocoon and goes to sleep. Scientific research has concluded that there is a mysterious substance called *anlagen* inside the caterpillar. These *anlagen* cells contain the DNA which produces the butterfly.

New things are born from livestock to the wild deer, sheep, goats, lions, wolves, etc. That which was asleep or dormant awakens to newness of life. It also brings forth another interesting creature, beautiful, enchanting in all its species and loved by many. That creature is the butterfly.

Does the caterpillar slowly change into a butterfly? The scientists say no! The caterpillar actually dies or perishes. It is the *anlagen* cells which are the building blocks for the butterfly that truly produce a new creature.

The amazing thing is that this much loved, beautiful, carefree creature was not always such, and because of this, there is an important lesson in it for Yahweh's people.

What happens is, the first part of the caterpillar's life, the *anlagen* cells are dormant. But toward the end of its life, they come to life and begin to swell. Actually, the butterfly is growing inside the caterpillar. Scientists call it "an embryo inside an embryo."

The butterfly began as the great majority of all Yahweh's creatures. It originally was an egg that had to be fertilized. All living creatures begin as some sort of fertilized egg or seed, even man. The egg hatches into a worm or caterpillar, one of the least desirable, one of the most detestable forms of Yahweh's creation.

After about 10 – 12 days a new creature emerges. The caterpillar was an ugly, hungry, destructive worm. The new creature is entirely different.

This worm or caterpillar hatches with a voracious appetite. Caterpillars of butterflies and moths can eat their way through whole gardens or even forests. Their work does much harm and can threaten to destroy ecological balances. They can virtually destroy or devastate plants and habitats that are necessary not only for other creatures, but for their very own existence! What an incredible and monstrous situation!

Consider the changes: it looks different. Frankly, it is very beautiful, colorful, delicate, desirable, even loveable. The caterpillar was earthbound, but the butterfly has the most gorgeous set of wings and is able to flit about from place to place in the most carefree manner.

It has a different appetite. It is no longer afflicted with a destructive, insatiable appetite, but it also no longer has a desire or taste for that food which was voraciously devoured by the caterpillar. It now subsists on the sweet



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nutritious nectar of flowers of the garden and field.

It doesn't destroy the creation with vigor, but rather promotes and helps the creation by being a pollinator. Frankly speaking, without the butterfly, certain plants wouldn't exist! What a tremendous difference!

## IMPORTANT LESSONS

What is the lesson for Yahweh's people from the caterpillar and butterfly? Since we understand Yahweh's plan and purpose, we can receive an amazing and interesting analogy from the butterfly.

Did you know that man is a worm? "Fear not, **thou worm Jacob**, and ye men of Israel: I will help thee, saith Yahweh and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel," Isa. 41:4. "But **I am a worm, and no man**; a reproach of men, and despised by the people," Psa. 22:6. The Hebrew word used here for worm actually means; a voracious maggot or worm.

There is one other place in the Bible which refers to man as a worm. It is found in the book of Job 25:6, "How much less **man, who is a worm**; and **the son of man, who is a worm**." one of the words used here for worm means; a maggot as rapidly breeding.

Isn't man so much like the caterpillar? We are full of so much lust and greed. Don't we devour our habitat voraciously and greedily not only to the detriment of the environment and others, but to ourselves?

We can read or watch the results of our voracious appetite, lust and greed on the news as we catch report after report on the ozone layer depletion, the disappearance of the forests, acid rain, industrial pollution, poisons used in farming, automotive pollution, etc., etc. Yes, man is a worm. A dangerous worm to the creation and himself.

## METAMORPHOSIS

Metamorphosis is the term used for the caterpillar's process of change into a butterfly. It is a Greek word and means; transform, transfigure, **1.** Change of form, shape, structure or substance **2.** A marked or complete change of character, appearance, condition, etc. (*Webster's New World Dictionary*)

Man also must be transformed, transfigured, changed. Not only must our physical form change but our very character, spiritual nature and desires must change. We, being physical, fleshly, or carnal, are mortal and corruptible. We cannot inherit Yahweh's kingdom in this state, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality," 1 Cor. 15:50-53.

But how are we to come to this change? Remember the *anlagen*? The *anlagen* was a substance which is not really a part of the caterpillar. It carries the DNA of the butterfly. We also must receive a substance (for lack of a better term) that is not a part of us, a substance which comes from without if we are to be transformed or changed. This substance is called the "Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit imparts the DNA of Elohim to those who are called, repent, and are baptized, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Acts 2:38.

What happens is, once a person repents and is baptized, he is representing a symbol of putting the flesh to death. Just as the voracious and destructive caterpillar must die in order to give way to the butterfly, we also must repent of our voracious and destructive ways of the flesh. We must put the old man to death so that a new creature, a new man may be formed in us. Remember that the butterfly is formed from the remains of the caterpillar.

Just as the *anlagen* begins to grow in the caterpillar while it is still alive, the Holy Spirit must grow in us while we are yet alive, "But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah," 2 Pet. 3:18.

As the change begins while the caterpillar is still alive, so must our change begin in us while we are yet alive. Paul writes, "I beseech



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you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Yahweh, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Yahweh, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed (*metamorphoo*) by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Yahweh," Ro. 12:1-2.

Notice it! The English word "transformed" comes from the Greek word "metamorphoo!" Just as the caterpillar must go through a stage called "metamorphosis," we also must "metamorphoo," be changed, transformed or transfigured into another creature!

This same word is used in another place, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Sovereign, are changed (*metamorphoo*) into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of Yahweh," 2 Cor. 3:18.

Yahweh's Spirit is our *anlagen*. It is our ability to be changed (*metamorphoo*) from one creature to another. Isn't Yahweh's creation, past, present and future, wondrous to behold!?

## THE FINAL STAGE

We, of the body of Yahshua who have the earnest of the Spirit, have received promises from Yahweh of the ultimate, better life to come. A transformation, a transfiguration must occur.

Many in the past were also given the earnest of the Spirit, but have died, not yet receiving those promises, Heb. 11:13. Many of us living today may and probably will also die, not having received the promises. I do not mean that the return of the Messiah is still so far away, but the Scriptures do reveal that, due to Satan's anger and the activities of the beast, there are many to be martyred, put to death for the sake of Yahweh's truth, Dan. 7:25, 11:31-35, Rev. 6:9-11, 7:9-14.

Yahshua revealed that death, the first death, is a type of sleep, "These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, 'Our friend Lazarus sleepeth: but I go that I may awake him out of sleep.' Then said His disciples, 'Master, if he sleep, he shall do well.' (Howbeit Yahshua spake of his death: but they thought

that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.) Then said Yahshua unto them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead'," Jn. 11:11-14. See also Mt. 9:18-26 & Mk. 5:22-24, 35-43. Paul also wrote of death as sleep, 1 Cor. 11:30; 15:51.

Our change must begin while we are alive. It must begin in the mind. We must submit to the Spirit of the Messiah as it begins to mold and fashion us in His likeness and image.

How much like the caterpillar entering into the cocoon, is the death of man, especially and specifically Yahweh's people. Just as the final change occurs in the cocoon, our final change will take place in the grave (except for those who are alive at Yahshua's return).

When the change comes, a totally different beautiful creature emerges from the cocoon. If we remain in the Spirit, the faith and hope of the Messiah until the end, then our change will come (1 Cor. 15:51-53 again).

## THE NEW CREATURE

As the caterpillar is restricted, earthbound, bearing the image of the earthy, so are we. When it is finally delivered from the ugly, earthbound body of a worm it is given a beautiful body that is able to fly through the air (heaven). This body with its ability to fly is a type of the heavenly body we shall receive. Paul writes, "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness: it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. And so it is written 'The first man Adam was made a living soul;' the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Sovereign from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly, 1 Cor. 15:42-49.

What will this heavenly body be like? It will be spirit, Jn. 3:6. John said that we will look like the Messiah, 1 Jn. 3:2. We get an idea of



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what Yahshua looks like in Rev. 1:13-16.

When we are born of Elohim (resurrected), as the butterfly, our appetite will change. Fleshly food, necessities and desires will no longer plague us. The sweet nectar of the kingdom, the fruits of the Spirit will be our sustenance! We will promote and aid Yahweh's creation, not destroy it. We will then have true liberty, true freedom, no more fleshly shackles of any

kind!

How much like the caterpillar and butterfly is the plight of Yahweh's people. Each time you see a butterfly, remember Yahweh's plan for His people. When you are struggling with the pulls of the flesh or are depressed or plagued with problems **CONSIDER THE BUTTERFLY!!!**  
*JH*

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