

Ezekiel 32:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers.

Analysis

Pharaoh is depicted as a 'young lion of the nations' and a 'dragon in the seas'—powerful, predatory, and dangerous. Yet despite self-perception as royal and majestic ('lion'), he's actually a destructive monster ('dragon') troubling the waters. This reveals the gap between self-perception and reality. Pride distorts self-understanding, seeing nobility where God sees destructiveness.

Historical Context

The dragon (Hebrew 'tannin'—sea monster/crocodile) was Egypt's national symbol. Pharaoh's claim to divine status made him see himself as supreme, though God saw him as merely a large, dangerous animal to be hunted and destroyed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How might your self-perception differ from God's perspective on your life and character?
2. What role does honest self-examination play in spiritual growth and humility?

Interlinear Text

בָּן	בָּן	אָדָם	שָׁא	קַיִנָּה	עַל	פְּרָעָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	יְמִינָה	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ
Son	of man	take up	a lamentation	H5921	for Pharaoh	king	of Egypt				
H1121	H120	H5375		H7015		H6547		H4428		H4714	
וְאֹמַרְתָּ	וְאֹמַרְתָּ	אֵלֶיךָ	בְּבָבְרִיתְךָ	גַּוְעַל	נָכַרְתָּ	מִתְּהִלָּתְךָ	וְאֹמַרְתָּ				
and say	H413	a young lion	of the nations	H1471	unto him	Thou art like	H859				
H559		H3715				H1819					
וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	בְּמִינְתְּהָ	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	H1518	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	בְּמִינְתְּהָ	H5104				
and thou art as a whale	H8577	in the seas	H3220		and thou camest forth	H1518	their rivers	H5104			
וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	בְּמִינְתְּהָ	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	H7272	וְתַּבְּרֹאַתָּם	בְּמִינְתְּהָ	H5104				
and troubledst	H1804	the waters	H4325		with thy feet	H7515	their rivers	H5104			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:3 (Kingdom): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

Ezekiel 27:2 (Parallel theme): Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus;

Isaiah 27:1 (Parallel theme): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Jeremiah 4:7 (Parallel theme): The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

Ezekiel 28:12 (Kingdom): Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Ezekiel 34:18 (Parallel theme): Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?

Ezekiel 32:16 (References Egypt): This is the lamentation wherewith they shall lament her: the daughters of the nations shall lament her: they shall lament for her, even for Egypt, and for all her multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 38:13 (Parallel theme): Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?