

Isaiah 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Analysis

The peaceful kingdom continues: predators (cow and bear) graze together with their young lying together in harmony. The lion eating straw like the ox represents complete transformation of carnivorous nature to herbivorous—reversing the curse's effects. This depicts either literal millennial conditions or metaphorically the complete peace of Christ's kingdom where former enemies coexist. Either interpretation shows creation's redemption from curse and violence, restored to Edenic conditions under Messiah's reign.

Historical Context

Anticipates messianic age when curse is lifted and creation restored (Romans 8:19-22). Some see literal fulfillment in millennial kingdom; others see metaphorical fulfillment in church's unity transcending natural enmities. The imagery draws from Eden where all creatures were originally herbivorous (Genesis 1:30). Christ's redemptive work begins reversing the fall's effects, ultimately culminating in new heavens and new earth where former things pass away.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's redemption extend beyond humans to all creation?
2. What does the transformation of predatory nature teach about the completeness of Christ's redemptive work?
3. How do we see previews of this coming peace in present Christian community?

Interlinear Text

וּפָרָה הַ	וְדָבָר	תִּרְעָה יָנָה	יַחְדָּם וְ	יִרְבְּצוּ וְ	יְלִידֵיהֶם וְ
And the cow	and the bear	shall feed	together	shall lie down	their young ones
H6510	H1677	H7462	H3162	H7257	H3206
וְאֵלֶּה הַ	כַּבֵּקֶר רַ	יֹאכֵל:	תִּבְנֶה:		
and the lion	like the ox	shall eat	straw		
H738	H1241	H398	H8401		

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