

Isaiah 43:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Analysis

Even wild animals—'beasts of the field, the dragons and the owls'—will honor God for providing water in wilderness. The Hebrew 'taniyn' (dragons/jackals) and 'bath ya'anah' (owls) represent creatures comfortable in desolation. If they recognize blessing, how much more should God's chosen people!

Historical Context

This poetically describes how transformation of wilderness into watered garden will be so dramatic that even wild creatures benefit and, metaphorically, acknowledge the source. Creation responds to redemption.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you see creation itself testifying to God's redemptive works?
2. What does it mean when even unlikely or 'wild' elements of your life honor God's provision?

Interlinear Text

יִתְכַבֵּד נִי	תִּי ת	הַשָּׂדֶה ה	תִּנֵּי ים	וּבְנֵי אוֹת	יֵעָנֶה ה	כִּי
shall honour	The beast	of the field	me the dragons	and the owls		
H3513	H2416	H7704	H8577	H1323	H3284	H3588
נָתַתִּי	בַּמִּדְבָּר	מַיִם	נְהָרוֹת	בְּיַשִּׁימִן	לְהַשְׁקֵם אוֹת	
because I give	in the wilderness	waters	and rivers	in the desert	to give drink	
H5414	H4057	H4325	H5104	H3452	H8248	
עַמִּי	בְּחִירִי:					
to my people	my chosen					
H5971	H972					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:17 (Parallel theme): When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Isaiah 49:10 (Parallel theme): They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

Isaiah 48:21 (Parallel theme): And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

Revelation 17:14 (Parallel theme): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Isaiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

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