

Jeremiah 49:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

Analysis

Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan (בְּצֹאֲרֵיָהּ יַעֲלֶה, k'aryeh ya'aleh)—God depicts Himself as the apex predator bursting from Jordan's dense thickets (ga'on haYarden, the 'pride of Jordan'—dense jungle along the riverbank where lions once lived). This terrifying image of divine warfare overwhelms Edom's 'strong habitation' (naveh eitan).

Who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? (מִי כְמוֹנִי וּמִי יוֹעֲדֵנִי, mi khamoni umi yo'ideni)—Four rhetorical questions establish God's incomparability and judicial prerogative. No shepherd (leader) can withstand Him; no chosen champion can represent Edom. These questions echo God's self-revelation to Job (Job 38-41) and Moses (Exodus 15:11). Human pretensions to sovereignty crumble before the thrice-holy Judge who owes no one an explanation for His verdicts.

Historical Context

The Jordan valley's riparian forests harbored lions until medieval times. The 'swelling' refers to Jordan flooding during harvest season (Joshua 3:15), when lions

were driven from cover and became dangerous predators—an apt metaphor for God's unstoppable judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do God's rhetorical questions dismantle human autonomy and establish His exclusive right to judge?
2. What does the 'lion from Jordan' image teach about the suddenness and ferocity of divine judgment?
3. How should the doctrine of God's incomparability shape our response to His commands and warnings?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| אֶל הַיַּרְדֵּן | מִגָּאֵן | יָעַל הַ | כְּאַרְיֵה הַ | הַ נָּה |
| H413 | H1347 | H5927 | H738 | H2009 |
| of Jordan | from the swelling | Behold he shall come up | like a lion | |
| H3383 | | | | |
| אֶרִיצֵנוּ | אֲרֹגַ יָעָה | כִּי אֵיתָן | נֹה הַ | |
| H7323 | H7280 | H3588 | H5116 | |
| make him run away | but I will suddenly | of the strong | against the habitation | |
| | | H386 | | |
| אֶפְקֹד דָּ | אֶל יְהוָה | בַּח וּרְ | וּמִי מְעַל יְהוָה | |
| H6485 | H413 | H977 | H4310 | H5921 |
| man that I may appoint | | from her and who is a chosen | | |
| | | | | |
| זֶה וּמִי | יַעֲיֹד נִי | וּמִי כִּמּוֹנִי | מִי כִּי | |
| H4310 | H3259 | H4310 | H3588 | H4310 |
| over her for who is like me and who will appoint me the time | | | | |
| | | | | |
| לִפְנֵי: | יַעֲמֹד | אֲשֶׁר | רֹעֵה הַ | |
| H6440 | H5975 | H834 | H7462 | |
| before | that will stand | | and who is that shepherd | |

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 12:5 (Parallel theme): If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

Jeremiah 30:21 (Parallel theme): And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD.

Job 9:19 (Parallel theme): If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?

Job 41:10 (Parallel theme): None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

Exodus 15:11 (Parallel theme): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Joshua 3:15 (Parallel theme): And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

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