

Job 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion: and again thou shewest thyself marvellous upon me.

Analysis

Job describes God as hunter: 'For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion: and again thou shewest thyself marvellous upon me.' The phrase 'it increaseth' (yigeh, נִגְהֶה) refers to Job's affliction growing. God 'hunteth' (tsud, צָד) like predator stalking prey. 'Fierce lion' (shachal, שָׁחָל) denotes powerful, dangerous beast. 'Shewest thyself marvellous' (shaphal, שָׁפַל) means to display power or do wonders—but here the wonders are terrifying demonstrations of power against Job.

Job inverts typical lion imagery. Usually God is lion protecting His people (Hosea 11:10, Revelation 5:5), and enemies are lions threatening believers (Psalm 22:13, 1 Peter 5:8). But Job experiences God as the predator hunting him. Same image, opposite pastoral application. Doctrine about God's power terrifies when experienced as directed against you rather than for you.

Christ reconciles this: He is Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5) who defeats enemies but is also Lamb of God (John 1:29) who dies for sinners. The fearsome power Job experiences as hunter becomes, in Christ, power deployed against sin and death on our behalf. God's lion-like might is channeled into redemptive violence against our enemies, not against us.

Historical Context

Ancient Near East featured lions as apex predators generating both awe and terror. Hunting imagery was common in royal propaganda and warfare. Job's use of God as hunter reflects his experience of being pursued, trapped, and overwhelmed—common ancient fears given tangible form.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ transform God's fearsome power from threat into protection?
2. What does Job's hunter imagery teach about how suffering can invert our perception of God's attributes?
3. In what ways is God's power like a lion—both protecting His people and destroying their enemies?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה תְּצַדֵּךְ נִיְשָׁנָתִךְ כִּי כִּי וְאַתָּה תְּצַדֵּךְ נִיְשָׁנָתִךְ כִּי כִּי

For it increaseth me as a fierce lion Thou huntest and again

H1342

H7826

H6679

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תַּתְפִּלְאָתִי בְּנֵי

thou shewest thyself marvellous

H6381

H0

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:13 (Parallel theme): I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

Lamentations 3:10 (Parallel theme): He was unto me as a bear lying in wait, and as a lion in secret places.

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

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