

Job 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.

Analysis

Eliphaz uses animal imagery: 'The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.' Lions represent powerful wicked people who oppress others. The Hebrew 'nathats' (broken) suggests God violently destroys the powerful wicked. Eliphaz implies Job must be such a one, since he's suffering God's destruction. This shows how even accurate theology (God does judge the wicked) can be misapplied to falsely accuse the innocent.

Historical Context

Lion imagery for powerful oppressors appears throughout ancient Near Eastern literature and Scripture (Psalm 7:2, 10:9). Eliphaz's use of this common metaphor wrongly categorizes Job among the wicked.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against misapplying true theological principles to judge others wrongly?

2. What does Eliphaz's misuse of lion imagery teach us about the danger of proof-texting?

Interlinear Text

רִהָה	שָׁגַג	תְ	אֵל	וְ	לִקְ	שְׁמַלְ	וְ	שְׁנַיְ
The roaring	of the lion		and the voice		of the fierce lion		and the teeth	
H7581	H738		H6963		H7826		H8127	
כְּפִיר	יְמָ		נִתְעַזָּה					
of the young lions	are broken							
H3715	H5421							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:6 (Parallel theme): Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.

Psalms 57:4 (Parallel theme): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Psalms 3:7 (Parallel theme): Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Proverbs 30:14 (Parallel theme): There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.