

# Micah 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

## Analysis

**And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest.** Verse 8 dramatically shifts imagery from dew (v. 7) to lion. The remnant isn't only gentle blessing but formidable power. **"As a lion among the beasts of the forest"** (כְּאַרְיֵה בְּבִהְמוֹת יַעַר, ke-aryeh be-vahamot ya'ar) depicts dominance—the lion reigns supreme, unchallenged. Revelation 5:5 calls Christ "the Lion of the tribe of Judah"—Messiah combines mercy (Lamb) and majesty (Lion).

**"As a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver."** The phrase **"young lion"** (כֶּכְפִּיר, ke-kephir) emphasizes vigor and power in prime. Among sheep (defenseless prey), the lion dominates absolutely. The verbs describe unstoppable force: **"treadeth down"** (רָמַס, ramas), tramples underfoot; **"teareth in pieces"** (תָּרַף, taraph), rips apart. **"None can deliver"**—no rescue, no escape. This isn't the meek suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) but the conquering King (Revelation 19).

How do we reconcile gentle dew (v. 7) with fierce lion (v. 8)? The remnant brings blessing to those who receive the gospel, judgment to those who reject it. Christ

came offering peace; those who refuse face wrath. The Church proclaims salvation (2 Corinthians 2:15-16): "to the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life." To believers, Christ is Savior; to unbelievers, Judge. The same gospel that saves also condemns. The remnant's presence forces decision—acceptance brings life, rejection brings judgment.

## Historical Context

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Throughout history, the Church has demonstrated this dual character. In the Roman Empire, Christianity spread through humble witness (dew), yet the gospel's advance toppled pagan temples, dismantled the gladiatorial games, and transformed brutal cultures (lion). The Reformation challenged ecclesiastical corruption with Scripture's authority—gentle truth that roared with prophetic power. Missionaries brought compassion (schools, hospitals, literacy) yet confronted idolatry, slavery, and oppression with uncompromising conviction. The remnant blesses through service while challenging sin through prophetic witness. Where Christ is embraced, societies flourish; where He is rejected, judgment follows. Jesus predicted this: "I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34)—not that Christ promotes violence, but that His gospel divides, forcing allegiance.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance being "gentle as doves" yet "wise as serpents" (Matthew 10:16) in your witness to an unbelieving world?
2. What does this dual imagery (dew and lion) teach about Christ's two advents—first in humility, second in power?
3. How should awareness that rejection of the gospel brings judgment shape the urgency of your evangelism?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה H1961	שְׁאֵר יִת H7611	יַעֲקֹב H3290	בְּגוֹיִם H1471	בֶּקֶר רֶב H7130
	And the remnant	of Jacob	shall be among the Gentiles	in the midst
עַם יִם H5971	רַב־יִם H7227	כְּאַרְיֵה H738	בְּבֵהֶמ וְת H929	לִיעַר H3293
people	of many	as a lion	among the beasts	of the forest
				as a young lion
				H3715
בְּעֵדְרֵי H5739	צֹאן H6629	אִם H834	אֶשְׁרֵי H518	וְרַמ־ס H7429
among the flocks	of sheep		who if he go through	both treadeth down
				H5674
וְטָרַף H2963	וְאֵין H369	מִצִּיל: H5337		
and teareth in pieces		and none can deliver		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 50:22** (Parallel theme): Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

**Zechariah 10:5** (Parallel theme): And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

**Micah 4:13** (Parallel theme): Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.

**Hosea 5:14** (Parallel theme): For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him.