

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"** (פָּארַיה בְּבָהָמוֹת יָעָר) 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"** (כְּכַפִּיר) 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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

וְיִהְיֶה	שָׁאַר	יִתְ	בְּגֹיאָה	בְּגֹיאָה	בְּגֹיאָה
H1961	And the remnant	of Jacob	shall be among the Gentiles	in the midst	
H7611		H3290	H1471		H7130
בְּמַרְאֵה	בְּבָבָהּ מִזְמָרָה	בְּבָבָהּ מִזְמָרָה	בְּבָבָהּ מִזְמָרָה	בְּבָבָהּ מִזְמָרָה	בְּבָבָהּ מִזְמָרָה
people	of many	as a lion	among the beasts	of the forest	as a young lion
H5971	H7227	H738	H929	H3293	H3715
בְּעָדרִי	אֶשְׁר	אָמַר	שְׁבַר	וְיָמָם	
among the flocks	of sheep	H834	H518	who if he go through	both treadeth down
H5739	H6629			H5674	H7429
וְיִתְ	אֵין	מִצְאֵל:			
and teareth in pieces	H369	and none can deliver			
H2963		H5337			

Additional Cross-References

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.