

# Numbers 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

## Analysis

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Balaam prophesies that of Israel 'it shall be said, What hath God wrought!' (literally 'done' or 'accomplished'). This exclamation anticipates nations marveling at God's mighty works for Israel. The phrase became famous through Samuel Morse's first telegraph message in 1844, recognizing God's sovereign work in human achievements. All who observe God's people should see His mighty acts, not human accomplishment.

## Historical Context

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This prophecy anticipated Israel's conquest of Canaan, where surrounding nations would marvel at God's power displayed through His people (Joshua 2:9-11, 9:9). God's works through His people serve as testimony to His reality and power.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What works in your life should cause observers to exclaim 'What hath God wrought!'?
2. How can you ensure God receives credit for accomplishments in your life and ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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הֵן H2005	עַם H5971	כָּלֹב יֵא H3833	יָקֹם וּ H6965	יִכְאַר י H738		
Behold the people	as a great lion	shall rise up	himself as a young lion			
וְיָרִם H5375	לֹא H3808	יִשְׁכַּב H7901	עַד H5704	יֹאכֵל H398	טֶרֶף H2964	דָּם H1818
and lift up	he shall not lie down	until he eat	of the prey	the blood		
וְיִשְׁתֶּה H2491	וְיִשְׁתֶּה H8354					
of the slain	and drink					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 49:9** (Parallel theme): Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

**Genesis 49:27** (Parallel theme): Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.