

# 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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וְ	רַע	כַּלְבָּ	יָא	כַּלְבָּ	וְ	וְ	רַע	וְ	רַע
H2005	<b>Behold the people</b>		<b>as a great lion</b>		<b>shall rise up</b>		<b>himself as a young lion</b>		
	H5971		H3833		H6965		H738		
וְ	לֹא	וְשָׁכַב	עַד	וְאָכַל	וְרָף	וְ	לִם		
<b>and lift up</b>	H3808	<b>he shall not lie down</b>	H5704	<b>until he eat</b>	<b>of the prey</b>	<b>the blood</b>			
H5375		H7901		H398	H2964		H1818		
וְ	שְׁתַתָּה:								
<b>of the slain</b>	<b>and drink</b>								
H2491		H8354							

## 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.