

Psalms 104:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

Analysis

Young lions roar after prey, 'seeking their meat from God.' Even predation is presented as provision from God—lions' hunting is included in divine providence. This isn't cruelty but ecological reality in a fallen world. The lions unknowingly seek food from God, who provides for all creatures. Christ taught that the Father feeds all creatures (Matt 6:26). Post-fall creation includes death and predation, yet God sustains this order until restoration comes. The Reformed understanding of providence includes all natural processes, even uncomfortable ones.

Historical Context

Lions inhabited the Middle East in biblical times (though now extinct there). Their nighttime hunting would be heard from settlements, making this a familiar, sometimes fearful sound demonstrating God's provision for wild predators.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile predation and death in nature with God's goodness as Creator?
2. What does God's provision for even dangerous predators teach about His comprehensive care?

Interlinear Text

הַ כְּפִירִים	שָׁאֵג יָם	לֶט רֶף	וּלְבֹקֵשׁ	מֵאֵל	אֲכָלָם:
The young lions	roar	after their prey	and seek	from God	their meat
H3715	H7580	H2964	H1245	H410	H400

Additional Cross-References

Job 38:39 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,

Joel 1:20 (Parallel theme): The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Psalms 34:10 (Parallel theme): The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.