

Psalms 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

Analysis

The imagery of enemies as 'ravening and roaring lions' depicts their fierce, predatory nature. This evokes Satan as a 'roaring lion seeking whom he may devour' (1 Pet. 5:8). From a Reformed perspective, Christ faced the full fury of satanic opposition and human evil at the cross, yet triumphed through apparent defeat. The 'gaped upon me' suggests open-mouthed aggression, emphasizing the hostility Christ endured to secure salvation.

Historical Context

Lions were symbols of deadly danger in ancient Israel. The metaphor communicated mortal threat and terror. For Jesus, the 'lions' included Satan, religious leaders, Roman authorities, and the principalities and powers arrayed against God's Messiah.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's victory over 'roaring lions' give you confidence against spiritual enemies?
2. What 'lions' in your life has Christ already defeated through His cross?

Interlinear Text

פָּצוּ	עַל־י	פִּיהֶם	אֶרְיָה	טֶרֶף
They gaped		upon me with their mouths	lion	as a ravening
H6475	H5921	H6310	H738	H2963
וְשֹׁאֵג:				
and a roaring				
H7580				

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Psalms 35:21 (Parallel theme): Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.

Psalms 17:12 (Parallel theme): Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

Job 16:10 (Parallel theme): They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.

Lamentations 3:46 (Parallel theme): All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.

Lamentations 2:16 (Parallel theme): All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

