

Psalm 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

Analysis

The plea to be saved 'from the lion's mouth' and 'from the horns of the unicorns' (wild oxen) depicts surrounded danger. The phrase 'thou hast heard me' marks a turning point—from lament to confidence, from petition to assurance. Reformed theology sees this as the moment of answered prayer, prophetically fulfilled in Christ's resurrection. God heard Christ's cry and raised Him from death, vindicating His trust and securing salvation for all who believe.

Historical Context

Lions and wild oxen (re'em, possibly aurochs) were the most dangerous animals in ancient Palestine. Deliverance from them symbolized miraculous rescue from certain death. Christ's resurrection was precisely such miraculous deliverance.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the shift from crying to confidence model the journey of faith through trials?

2. What assurance do you have that God hears your prayers as He heard Christ's?

Interlinear Text

רָמַם יְמִינֵי וּמִקְרָבֵנִי אֶרְאֵי הַמִּפְּנֵי הַוְשִׁיעָנִי
Save mouth me from the lion's me from the horns of the unicorns
H3467 H6310 H738 H7161 H7214

עָמַתְתָּנִי:
for thou hast heard
H6030

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Numbers 23:22 (Parallel theme): God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.

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:

Isaiah 34:7 (Parallel theme): And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

Acts 4:27 (Parallel theme): For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

John 8:59 (Parallel theme): Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 14:30 (Parallel theme): Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

