

# Psalms 80:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.

## Analysis

**The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.** This verse specifies the predators ravaging the exposed vineyard. "The boar out of the wood" (yekarsemenah chazir miyya'ar, יְקַרְסֵמָנָה חֲזִיר מַיָּאָר) introduces destructive wild swine. Chazir (חֲזִיר) is swine/boar—unclean animal (Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8) that roots up vineyards, destroying roots and vines systematically. Karsem (כָּרֵסֶם) means to gnaw, eat off—suggesting thorough, destructive feeding that ruins vines beyond immediate consumption. Boars from the forest represent powerful, unclean forces devastating God's holy vine.

"The wild beast of the field doth devour it" (veziz sadai yir'ennah, וְזִיז שָׁדֵי יִרְעַנָּה) adds comprehensive threat. Ziz (זִיז) is uncertain term, possibly referring to insects, small animals, or general designation for field creatures. The verb ra'ah (רָאָה) means to feed, graze, devour—suggesting the vineyard has become pasture for creatures that should never access it. Together, "boar" and "wild beast" represent all destructive forces—great and small—now feeding freely on what was God's protected possession.

The unclean animals (swine) devastating God's holy vine intensifies the tragedy: not only is Israel suffering, but unclean nations defile what was consecrated to Yahweh. The imagery anticipates Jesus's parable warning against casting pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6) and his lament over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37-38). The comprehensive devastation—large predators and small creatures—suggests nothing remains to salvage without divine intervention.

## Historical Context

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Wild boars were serious agricultural pests in ancient Palestine, particularly destructive to vineyards and grain fields. The designation of swine as unclean made them fitting metaphors for hostile Gentile nations devastating Israel. Various commentators identify the boar with different historical enemies: Assyria, Babylon, or regional powers like Aram. The dual threat—large predators and small creatures—suggests waves of attacks: major conquests followed by ongoing raids by minor powers, comprehensively devastating the land until nothing remained of former glory.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do the 'unclean' predators (boar, wild beasts) devastating God's vineyard represent spiritual threats to God's people today?
2. What is the proper response when both major threats (boars) and minor persistent attacks (wild beasts) simultaneously assault believers' spiritual vitality?
3. How does recognizing that God allowed the hedge removal (verse 12) that permitted these attacks shape understanding of spiritual warfare and protection?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּהּ יְכַרְסַת

doth waste

H3765

בָּיִר

The boar

H2386

מִעֵר

out of the wood

H3293

בְּזַי

it and the wild beast

H2123

שָׂדֵה

of the field

H7704

רָעַבָּה:

doth devour

H7462

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:7** (Parallel theme): The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

**Jeremiah 5:6** (Parallel theme): Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

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