Revelation 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

Analysis

Women's hair suggests seductive deception, while lion's teeth indicate destructive power. This combination warns against underestimating spiritual threats that appear attractive but destroy. The imagery recalls Joel 1:6's description of locusts. Reformed theology recognizes that Satan's tactics blend deception (appearing beautiful) with destruction (concealing deadly intent). The detailed description emphasizes that judgment encompasses both seduction from truth and penalty for unbelief. Believers must discern that what culture finds attractive often masks demonic deception.

Historical Context

Long hair in ancient cultures could signify glory or seduction, while lions represented both royalty and predatory danger. The mixed metaphor would communicate that these judgment agents combined deceptive allure with lethal power—an apt description of false teachings that seem wise but devour faith. Gnostic heresies often promised enlightenment while leading to spiritual death.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do cultural forces today combine attractive presentation (hair) with destructive teaching (teeth)?
2. What discernment do you need to recognize when appealing ideas or movements contain deadly spiritual error?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶχον	τρίχας	ὡς	τρίχας	γυναικῶν	καὶ	οἱ	ὀδόντες
And	they had	hair	as	hair	of women	And	G3588	teeth
G2532	G2192	G2359	G5613	G2359	G1135	G2532		G3599

αὐτῶν	ὡς	λεόντων	ἦσαν
their	as	the teeth of lions	were
G846	G5613	G3023	G2258

Additional Cross-References

Joel 1:6 (Parallel theme): For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.