

98.1 The Lions' Fight for Dominance

I am sure you know that animal groups have a variety of names. For instance, a group of whales live in a pod; cattle are in herds; sheep are in flocks; a group of baboons is called a congress (we'll leave that one alone); and lions live in a pride. Today I want to talk about lions and our spiritual war. Let's begin with two passages. The first is **1 Peter 5:8-9** (NKJV, emphasis added):

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

The second passage is **Revelation 5:4-5** (NKJV, emphasis added):

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Did you notice the contrast between these two passages? In the first, Peter describes our adversary as one who is LIKE a roaring lion. In the second, John sees the "*Lion of Judah*," Jesus, who would open the seven seals. There is a battle between one who appears to be a lion and the One who IS the Lion.

The Amplified Version of the Bible describes the passage in **1 Peter**: "**That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.**" The devil is hungry, but not for physical food. He is hungry for the souls of those who bear the image of God. In other words, he is after you and me and wants to devour our lives and block us from our heavenly Father.

I did a little research as to why lions roar, and I found several details. Lions do not roar when they hunt. There is an obvious explanation. Roaring would scare away the prey. Instead, they act stealthily and silently with the intent to kill. After securing a kill, lions usually don't roar. There is an eating hierarchy among lions, so they might snarl or growl to communicate with their pride members and to signal that they are willing to share prey, but they don't roar to mark a victorious hunt as that would attract additional competitors for the meal. So, why DO lions roar?

First, the lions roar to project strength and dominance. Years ago, when my daughter was young, we lived in Abilene, Texas, near their zoo. In the evenings, we often heard the male lions roaring to express their power even though they were confined within the zoo.

We know that God is ultimately dominant in the world and universe, but for now, the evil one is loose and expressing his power. Don't think for a moment that he is not strong and controlling. Just look at the mass insanity going on by his deceptions, from abortions to injustices to reprehensible lifestyles to mass shootings. His demons are loose and influencing the brainwashed.

Second, lions mark and defend their territory from competing males by roaring. Research has shown that roaring is confined to pride males within their territories, and nomadic males only roar when they take over a competitor's pride. The males remain silent outside of their territories. According to our African wildlife guides, a lion can identify the roars and calls of up to twenty individuals.

We are in a territorial struggle. God originally created the world as His and for His purposes. The earth does belong to Him (**Psalm 24:1**), but the evil one has invaded it with nefarious objectives, and we are caught in the middle. Adam and Eve made the wrong choice in the garden, allowing evil to penetrate their lives and invade the earth. As a nomadic lion, Satan attempts to overthrow God and claim His pride and territory. John points out the devil's dominion in **1 John 5:19** (NKJV):

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

The apostle Paul reminds us of Satan's bid for dominance in **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** (KJV):

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

In **1 Peter 5:8-9**, Jesus' apostle gives us four commands to avert the dominance of evil. Let me read the verses again.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

First, we are to be sober and practice self-control. Second, we must be alert. So many are asleep and unaware of a spiritual war for our souls. We lost the republic beginning in the 1960s when we removed God from our schools, and no one protested because they were not alert and vigilant. Third, we resist Satan and his minions. Oz's Cowardly Lion was a bully until confronted. Satan runs from us when we fight him (**James 4:7**). Too many Christians prefer submission to evil rather than resistance today. The "go along to get along" mentality shows which lion they choose as their master. Fourth, we stand firm, steadfastly in the faith.

Our Founding generations knew the realities of resisting the devil. **Daniel Webster** said:

"If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."

Lions are more than fictional characters like **C.S. Lewis'** Aslan or the Wizard of Oz's "Cowardly Lion." They are more than sports teams' mascots like the Detroit Lions. They are real and intriguing animals. We are fascinated with lions because God created lions to be fierce killing machines. Their bodies, claws, teeth, eyesight, and mannerisms make them the most potent hunter in the wild. Not only that, the mane of a male lion looks quite majestic. When we see a lion, we are simultaneously fascinated, filled with curiosity and fear.

There IS a spiritual war between the Lion of Judah and the pretender. The good news, God's Lion wins the war. The book of Revelation shows the end of the adversary and the reign of God's Son. When alert to this reality, we choose the King of kings as ours.

Keep The Light *of the Lion of Judah* Burning!

GodNAmerica.com

GodNAmerica@gmail.com

405.361.3123