

Elder Vernon Johnson
Animals

The Devil – A Roaring Lion

1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

In the scriptures, lions are frequently used to depict or represent kings. The above passage of scripture suggests that the devil is a king and has a kingdom. It also depicts him as a roaring lion seeking to devour the people of God.

The devil or Satan has a kingdom. It is presented to us in the book of Revelation as a seven headed, ten horn beast:

1. Rev. 12:3 “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.” This passage depicts Satan as the great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns.

2. Rev. 13:1 “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” This beast is in the image of the dragon. This indicates that the dragon has made a kingdom in his image.

3. Rev. 17:3 “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Here the Satanic kingdom is described to us as containing a false religion which is riding on the back of the beast of Satan’s kingdom.

4. Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. Rev. 17:9 “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” This shows us that the false religion has been or will be on the back of seven kingdoms (represented by mountains) Thus, the kingdoms are the horses on which the false religion rides.

Satan is the builder and guide on which the seven kingdoms are founded:

Rev. 13:2 “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Our purpose in presenting the above is to show that Satan has a kingdom and he sits as the king of that kingdom. It was this kingdom that Satan referred to when he attempted to tempt Christ: Matt. 4:8 “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

Satan is said to be a roaring lion. A roaring lion is a hungry lion seeking to devour its prey. The prey of Satan are the obedient children of God: Rev. 12:17 “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

“Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” Our defense against this roaring lion is to resist him steadfast in the faith. This assumes we are grounded in the faith and that we keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.