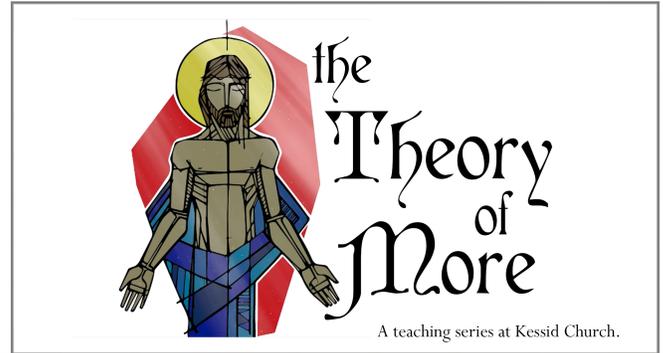


“CLASH OF LIONS”
Date: April 24, 2022
Speaker: Danny Clinton



(Vs) Isaiah 31:4 – “For thus the Lord said to me, “As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the Lord of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.”

Even more common, The Bible describes Jesus as The Lion of Judah...From Genesis to Revelation...

(Vs) Gen. 49:9 – “Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?”

- Here the imagery of the lion reflects the powerful, majestic, and kingly nature of the lion, often regarded as the king of beasts.
- Applied to the person/tribe of Judah, this is significant, because it heralds the lineage of Judah as that of kings...
- For out of Judah’s line, King David and his descendants would rule over Israel until the time of the Babylonian captivity. And generations later, Jesus Christ would come as a descendent of David and Judah to forge a new covenant and usher in a new kingdom of heavenly glory...

(Vs) Rev. 5:5 – “And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Now, because Jesus is who we find our identity in, this “Lion likeness” becomes our identity as well...

(Vs) Prov. 28:1 – “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

(Vs) Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

(Vs) Proverbs 30:30 – “the lion, which is mightiest among beasts and does not turn back before any...”

But the interesting thing is... The Bible also uses ‘Lion’ to describe an enemy of God...

- The one who opposes both Him and His righteous ones.

(Vs) 1st Peter 5:8 ESV – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

- **Def:** "Satan or 'Ha-Satan' The Accuser."

(Vs) Rev. 12:10 – "And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

The accuser speaks over our lives that we aren't who we think we are...

- The accusation is this... That "To be valuable we need to be more."
- That we aren't enough!

It's an ancient lie...

(Vs) Gen 3:1-5 – "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made." He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

He accused God of lying... Of God not considering them worthy.

- And we have believed this...
- Note: So much of my work with people is around this lie... That they have no intrinsic value!
- And, it's a near perfect strategy!!!

This is because the accuser not only attacks our identity, he also then tries to take on the identity of God, and proclaim we are not enough!

(Vs) 1st Peter 5:8b ESV – "...Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

- **Notice...** It says he's "like a roaring Lion..."
- This is because he's not a lion... He's just wearing the suit.
- This is clearly shown inside God's response to the earlier mentioned deceptive serpent!

(Vs) Genesis 3:15 NIV – "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Let's be clear! ... Real Lions don't get their heads crushed in!

- Real Lions command the room! - Always!
- Even when false 'enemy lions' are pressing in!

In this next passage, Jesus is being pressed by the existing religious establishment...

- They are using the same lie the accuser has taught them... To try and tell Jesus He isn't enough! He should be more!

(Vs) John 8:39-47 – "They answered him, "Abraham is our father..."

- Once again, the real Lion overcomes the false...

So, much of our spiritual life comes down to this 'Clash of Lions.'

- One real and overcoming...
- While another is an imposter, posing in order to intimidate...

In this final passage... We get to see a side-by-side example of how the world tries to dress itself up in power it doesn't possess and then clashes with a God who does!

(Vs) Luke 18:9-14 – "He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed^[a] thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you; this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- God justifies or "Values" the prayers of the one... And the other's prayer is left lifeless!\That is the most obvious "Clash of Lions" verse I could find...
- Two opposing views... One is Self-Driven and another is God Glorifying!

And just to drive home my point... look at what happens directly after...

(Vs) Luke 18:15-17 – "Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

This is who Jesus says we should try and imitate...

- Bear... Roaring!
- We think God wants more from us... But, all that He wants is for us to be as bold as He intended... Invaluably Loved!

Trust not in the identity you've created, but in the one you've been given.

(Vs) Rom. 8:37-39 – "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

MESSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

PONDER

1. What about the message did I feel...
 - Inspired about?
 - Convicted by?
 - Sadness, grief, or loss about?
 - Curious about?
 - Hopeful for?

EXPERIENCE

2. Did anyone have a "Wow!" moment during the message that resonated in you? If so, what was it? (Could be a new scripture/Bible story you've never heard, a profound concept, etc.)

LEARN

3. What new/fresh thing did I learn about God? What new/fresh thing did I learn about myself?

APPLY

4. How can I challenge myself this week with what I've learned? What might responding well look like?