

Lions in the Word

Here are a few passages about the symbolism of a lion in the Word.

Picturing the Power of Divine Truth

By a lion is symbolized Divine truth; therefore the Lord is also called a lion in the Word (see *Apocalypse Explained* 782).

“A lion” symbolizes the Divine truth of the Word as to its power...and because the Lord is the Divine truth itself, or the Word, He is called “a Lion” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 265).

“Lions” represented power, guard, and protection against falsities and evils (*Apocalypse Explained* 278:11).

“Lions” are Divine truths engaged in conflict and overcoming (*Arcana Coelestia* 5313:15).

A “lion” is often mentioned in the Word. In the highest sense a “lion” symbolizes the Lord in relation to Divine truth, likewise heaven and the church in respect to Divine truth from the Lord. From this a “lion” symbolizes Divine truth in respect to power. To “roar” or “the roaring of a lion” symbolizes an ardent affection for defending heaven and the church, and thus for saving the angels of heaven and the people of the church, which is done by destroying the falsities of evil by means of Divine truth and its power (see *Apocalypse Explained* 601:4).

“A lion” in the internal sense of the Word means the truth of the Church, on account of its strength, truth being that which fights and overcomes (*Arcana Coelestia* 3923:3).

Picturing the Power of Falsity:

In the opposite sense, a lion means infernal falsity as to the power of destroying Divine truth, and thus the Word; and this is done especially by the falsification and adulteration of it. Because a lion is the most powerful of all animals, and his power increases according to his appetite for devouring, and thus of seizing his prey and tearing it in pieces, therefore by a lion is also meant the desire to destroy the truths of the Word (see *Apocalypse Explained* 782).

In the contrary sense “to roar” or “the roaring of a lion” symbolizes an ardent desire to destroy the church by destroying Divine truth by means of the falsities of evil (see *Apocalypse Explained* 601:4).

“The teeth of lions” stands for falsities destructive of truths, “lions” being falsities arising from evil in their power (*Arcana Coelestia* 9052:3).

A tearing to pieces of good by falsities and evils is meant in the internal sense of the following:

“They opened their mouth against me—a lion tearing and roaring (Psalm 22:13).”

“Lest like a lion they seize my soul, tearing it to pieces and there is none to deliver (Psalm 7:1).”

(*Arcana Coelestia* 5828:6)