



FOR REFLECTION

Hell Is Like a Huge Lion

The Lord fights against hell in every person who is being regenerated. For hell attacks all such with diabolical fury, and unless the Lord resisted and tamed that fury, a person could not but succumb. For hell is like one monstrous human, or like a huge lion.... Unless the Lord kept that lion or monster fettered, a person from himself would fall into another evil when rescued from one evil (see *True Christian Religion* 123:6).

Hell is compared to a huge lion in *True Christian Religion* 123.

1. Think about what it would be like to meet a fierce lion without any protection.
2. Reflect on ways the Lord protects us from the forces of hell which want to destroy us.

The Lord's combat with the hells while He lived on earth is compared to a conflict with all of the ferocious wild beasts on the earth. In the gospel of Mark, we read "And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts" (1:13). Here and in other places in the Word, the wild beasts symbolize evil spirits.

3. What are some other wild beasts that you would rather not encounter without a way to defend yourself?
4. How did the Lord defend Himself against the "wild beasts" that attacked Him? (See Matthew 4:1-11 for clues.)

The Lord fights against hell in every person who is being regenerated. Without the Lord's help, we could never fight our evils and be led to heaven.

5. Does this make sense to you? Or do you have the feeling that you could fight the hells on your own?
6. Why is it that the Lord can fight for us if we choose what is good and right?