

## CouplesInBloom.com – **Lionhearted Love**

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“Judah is a lion's whelp. My son, you have risen up from the prey; he stoops, he crouches like a lion; and like a lioness, who can rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the lawmaker from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and the obedience of the peoples to him.” ⇒ Genesis 49:9-10. This chapter in the Bible is where Jacob / Israel prophesies over each of his twelve sons / tribes. Today we focus on Judah.

The name Judah means *celebrated*. The roots of this word have to do with *positive giving*, specifically with *power*, *means* and *direction*. The Bible associates Judah with *praise* as well as with a... *lion*. A **lion**??? What do *praise* and a *lion* have in common??? **Nothing**, but the above Scripture reference plus others are God telling us to **marry them**.

Let's look at this in bite-sized pieces; first the **lion** part. Genesis 49:9-10 ⇒ ends up referring to three different types of lions when researched: **1) Whelp** (cub), still abiding in the lair; it enjoys both sides of the transition between its mother's care and successfully hunting on its own. **2) Lioness** (literally meaning having a *fiercer roar*) (but not like a roaring lion which is #3 below). Remember this attribute; it has great importance as we will see later on this page. **3) Roaring lion**, which ⇒ 1 Peter 5:8 and Ezekiel 22:25 both associate to the devouring of souls. This is **not** the kind of roaring God wants us to do.

Next: look at the **praise** part. Scripture often teaches us that praise is the first part of accomplishing anything great: **a)** how we approach Almighty God ⇒ Psalm 100:4; **b)** the first part of spiritual battles / warfare ⇒ Numbers 2:9; 7:12; Judges 20:8; etc. and **c)** how we approach our beloved / lover ⇒ Song of Solomon 1:2, which God patterned after our relationship with Him ⇒ Ephesians 5:31-32. Praise initiates action! ⇒ Psalm 22:3.

Now: look how **God** defines praise: He connects *celebration*, *positive giving*, *power*, *means*, *direction* and *praise* with the fierceness of a *lion*... specifically the fiercer roar of a lioness / female lion. Praise is not **praise** if not intense, and females can tell right away.

God made females, including the men and women who comprise Bride of Christ, with a fiercer roar... to be unmistakably oriented to stronger praise. This means the wife is extremely tuned in to verbal affirmation, regardless of everything (because her roar is fiercer). Likewise, the Bride of Christ praises God no matter what ⇒ Psalm 54:6; Jeremiah 33:11; Hebrews 13:15 because this issues of this life are *nothing* in comparison.

**This can be difficult for husbands to understand** and impossible for non-Christians (non-Brides of Christ) ⇒ 1 Corinthians 2:14. Since God made the husband the head of the house ⇒ 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23 **yet** the wife more sensitive to praise / romance, the marriage will suffer unless **1)** she loves him unconditionally, and **2)** he spiritually matures to a fiercer love roar like she has. Both spouse's responsibility is vital.

God's intends us to have **lionhearted love**: marrying the *lion* to *praise*. For a husband, this means **his wife becomes more important than his life**: He keeps *celebrating and giving her positive, powerful means, directing praise* to her with the fierceness of a *lion*, as God does for us, His Bride, ⇒ Zephaniah 3:17. A wife who has **lionhearted love** *helps* her husband, and each spouse is to minister to the other ⇒ 1 Corinthians 7:33-34. ♥