

# The wolf and the lamb shall dwell together

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**T**he wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. (**Isaiah 11:6**) In my last article on Isaiah I pointed out how the Messianic prophecies, must be understood in their culture and historical setting. We also need to look closely at the language and similarities in **Isaiah 11:6** and see how they fits elsewhere in the Bible.

Our language is full of metaphors, and we very often use them quite unconsciously. For instance, in everyday speech, we often use figurative language. We might say, "He was green with envy," or "She really got my goat." or "the hands of a clock." By using such figures of speech, we can communicate better than if we had to use words literally.

This means that the student who understands the background and use of such words will better understand the Bible. Figurative language is sometimes used to emphasize a point, make a vivid impression, or attract the attention of the listener or reader. Most figures of speech Jesus used created a lasting impressions, and many are absolutely unforgettable. Speaking of Judaic authorities Jesus told the disciples. *Behold, I send you forth as **sheep in the midst of wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

(**Matthew 10:16**) Often the context of a passage will point out whether the figure of speech is intended. The Pharisees would never forget Jesus' description of them as "wolves." This startling expression certainly would have captured the attention of everyone who heard it.

God felt very free to use many metaphors to describe men. For example, men are also referred to as trees. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called **trees of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (**Isaiah 61:3**)

And even with more frequency, men are referred to as **animals**: When told that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus, Jesus could have said, "Go and tell the king..." Instead Jesus said, "Go and tell that **fox**..." On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here for Herod wants to kill You.." And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow and the third day I shall be perfected. (**Luke 13:31-32**).

I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are **beasts**. (**Ecclesiastes 3:18**) One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The cretins are always liars, evil **beasts**, slow bellies. (**Titus 1:12**) But these, as natural brute **beasts**, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption. (**2 Peter 2:12**)

When a specific, category of men are referred to sometimes they are referred to as different kinds of animals like a roaring lion and ranging bear. **Proverbs 28:15** As a **roaring lion**, and a **ranging bear**; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people. **Isaiah 5:29-30** Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it. And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

We must also remember, that dogs are sometimes referred to as the Judaic authorities. The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him. All you beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all you beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all **dumb dogs**, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy **dogs** which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. (**Isaiah 56:8-11**)

Under Hebrew law (God's law), dogs were unclean animals. Dogs are also sometimes referred to as those who remained or returned to the law as well. Beware of **dogs**, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. (**Philippians 3:2**) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The **dog** is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (**2 Peter 2:22**) As a dog returns to his vomit, [so] a fool returns to his folly. (**Proverbs 26:11**) For **dogs** have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they **pierced my hands and my feet**. (**Psa 22:16**) For without are **dogs**, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (**Revelation 22:15**)

Everyone Jew that was familiar with the Old Testament know how God used metaphors to describe men. Here are some passages that show the wolf as a false teacher: Benjamin shall raven as a **wolf** in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil. (**Genesis 49:27**) Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a **wolf** of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backsliding are increased. (**Jeremiah 5:6**) Her princes in the midst thereof are like **wolves** ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. (**Ezekiel 22:27**)

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening **wolves**. (**Matthew 7:15**) Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of **wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (**Matthew 10:16**) But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeing the **wolf** coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the **wolf** catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. (**John 10:12**) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (**Act 20:29**)

It is also clear that God's people are often referred to as **lambs or sheep**. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as **lambs** among wolves. (**Luke 10:3 KJV**) So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my **lambs**. (**John 21:15 KJV**) I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the **sheep**. (**John 10:11**)

Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as **sheep** for the slaughter. ( **Psalms 44:22**) Maschil of Asaph. O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the **sheep** of thy pasture? Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. (**Psalms 74:1-2**) For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the **sheep** of his hand. (**Psalms 95:7**)

Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as **sheep** which have no shepherd. (**Numbers 27:17**) All we like **sheep** have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (**Isaiah 53:6**)

Bible prophecy is a special topic of a forth coming event that often makes use of figurative language, and a special time elements involved in the prophet's message. To correctly interpret biblical prophecy, "We need an approach that will read nothing into prophecy and make clear all that the prophet said or wrote to his own people, and times."

The is equally helpful in identifying what I believe to be the significance of **Isaiah 11:6** and 65. Therefore, it is my conclusion that Isaiah is showing a represents of the *peace* in Messiah's coming Kingdom . The wolf and lamb represented in **Isaiah 11** are referring to the uniting of the Jews and the Gentiles in Christ Jesus. There is no difference. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb there shall be on unrest between the two.

**Isaiah 2** prophesied that their would be no more war under the Messianic reign. Ephesians says that not only is there peace with God, there is also peace with each other, specifically that the middle wall of partition has been broken down between Jew and Gentile. (**Ephesians 2:13-16**) This peace treaty brought about by the blood of Christ is that which we see in **Isaiah 65** as it also says, "they shall neither hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain." This mountain corresponds directly with **Isaiah 2**: This figure of speech would set off a powerful emotion and response to the people and culture of that time. Think back to how the Rich man and treated Lazarus.

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