

## LION CHASERS

2 Sam 23:20 Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. NKJV

2 Sam 23:20 There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which included killing two champions of Moab. **Another time, on a snowy day, he chased a lion down into a pit and killed it.** New Living Translation

I. **“Normal people”** do not chase lions

A. “normal people” run the other way when they hear a lion roar

1. “normal people” do not chase lions on snowy days

a. “normal people” do not jump into a pit with a lion.....where there is no escape

2. But you will find “normal people” on the side lines of life and ministry

a. applauding lion chasers

3. I want to challenge you today to come off of the sidelines

a. and become a lion chaser

b. then take the risk of jumping into a pit, and slay your lion

c. because **your God given opportunities only come out of the pits in life**

B. Lion Chasers have learned to face their fears and chase lions as Benaiah did

2. **Def Benaiah:** built of Jehovah

a. Like Benaiah; **we have not been built to run in fear**

(1) **we have been built by God to chase lions**

C. **There are two reasons why a lion roars:**

1. **First:** to claim that he is king in his territory

2. **Secondly:** to put fear in the heart of everyone who dwells in his territory

D. Make a spiritual comparison: **the devil is compared to a lion in scripture:**

1. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.
  - a. The devil is still walking about on the earth roaring like a lion, attempting to put fear in the hearts of God's people
  - b. so he may continue to exercise his domain in a territory that God says is yours:
  - c. The devil is hoping that his roar will chase you away from pursuing what God has for your life:
    - (1) your dream, calling, destiny, blessing, career, etc.

E. We must **conquer our fears and excuses** if we are going to become lion chasers  
And be willing to jump into the pits of life to slay the lion we face

1. **Conquer our FEARS:**

- a. 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
- b. Prov 22:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! **I shall be slain in the streets!**"
  - (1) Too many Christians are hiding in church in fear of the roar of the lion outside and they fail to realize:
    - (a) 1 John 4:4 greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

2. Psychiatric reference books state that there are approximately two thousand classified fears:

- a. Psychiatrists also teach that we are born with only two innate fears:
  - (1) fear of falling
  - (2) fear of loud noises
  - (3) that means that all of the other categories of fear **HAVE TO BE LEARNED**
    - (a) for two long we have allowed the devil to be our teacher....teaching us how to live in fear
    - (b) instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us how to live by faith & become a lion chaser

### 3. Conquer our EXCUSES:

a. especially the one that gets us to believe the lie of not moving in faith because conditions are not perfect.

(1) Benaiah chased and jumped into the pit to slay the lion on a snowy day.....

Not a day of being sure footed when facing a lion...not perfect conditions

For slaying a lion

(a) Eccl 11:4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

(1) What God has **called us to do**

What God has **called us to become**

(a) are not to be based upon the **conditions we face**

(b) Rather it is based upon the VICTORY OF Our Lord Jesus Christ

(1) 2 Cor 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always **causeth us to triumph in Christ,**

b. **What excuses are you using,** that are stopping you from chasing your lion?

(1) I'm to busy

(2) I'm not qualified

(3) I'm over qualified

(4) I have too many problems

(5) I do not have enough money

(6) the economy is not good

(7) I'm not ready

(a) News Flash: **YOU WILL NEVER BE READY....THINGS WILL NEVER BE PERFECT .....IT TAKES FAITH TO CHASE LIONS**

F. Your lion is a God given opportunity to seize your destiny: and your lion usually shows up at the worst time in life:

1. You must believe that **God strategically positions** us in the **right place**, at the **right time**:

a. the right place often seems like the wrong place

b. and the right time often seem like the wrong time

c. But; we must learn to discern a window of opportunity

(1) **Def Opportunity: KARIOS** / set or proper time / season

(a) a **KARIOS** moment is a **moment of divine opportunity**

(1) and opportunity does not knock.....**IT ROARS**

- (2) opportunities usually come disguised as problems...in the midst of impossible situations
- (3) When Benaiah found himself face to face with a lion in a pit....
  - (a) he did not see a five hundred pound problem
  - (b) he seen a lion skin hanging in his tent
- (4) What do you see while in the “pits of life”?
  - (a) I want to remind you of: Matt 19:26 but with God all things are possible.

2. There are **two types of regrets**:

- a. **regrets of action**: wishing you had not done something
  - (1) which are **sins of commission**
- b. **regrets of inaction**: wishing you had done something
  - (1) which are **sins of omission**
  - (2) God is just as concerned about the sins of omission: things we should have done for His glory,
    - (a) when we have disobeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit and failed to do God’s bidding
    - (b) Lion Chasers do not let their fears and doubts keep them from doing what God has called them to do
      - (1) Instead lion chasers jump into the pit with the lion

3. How many of us in this room are standing at the edge of a “pit in life” / standing at the brim of our **KAIROS MOMENT**

- a. and fear is holding us back
- b. or our minds are calculating everything.....and it is not adding up....so we fail to chase our lion and leap into a pit..... missing a divine opportunity..... committing the sin of omission.....causing our testimony to be like that of the Pharaoh of Egypt in Jeremiah’s day:
  - (1) Jer 46:17 There they will exclaim, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a loud noise; **he has missed his opportunity.**' NIV
    - (a) or in other words the Pharaoh was all talk
    - (b) like many Christians, they may have a confession of faith
      - (1) but they fail to leap into the pit and slay their lion
      - (2) causing them to miss their **KARIOS MOMENT**

## II. Benaiah not only chased a lion, **he jumped into a pit with the lion**:

### A. It is in the “**pits of life**” that we slay our lion

1. How we act in the pits of life as we face our lion...**determines our destiny in life**
  - a. Benaiah took a **leap of faith** and followed that lion he was chasing into a pit
  - b. Benaiah took a **risk in life** and leaped into that pit & slew his lion
2. Jumping into a pit to slay your lion may seem crazy.....but it might be God
  - a. **Testimony** Move from southern to northern Ohio
  - b. **Testimony** going to Moslem & Hindu nations....nations in or just coming out of civil war...planting bible schools, churches & Abundant Ministries fellowship....& doing leadership conferences....is my lion to chase....pit to jump into....& slay that lion / devil ....pull down those strongholds in those nations
2. The **Apostle Paul** understood this kind of commitment & God’s faithfulness as he chased his lions & jumped into his pits of life:
  - a. 2 Tim 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and **I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**
    - (1) This spiritual principle does not just apply to preachers & ministry
    - (2) It applies to every believer ....and applies to every arena of life, family career, business, etc.

### B. I made a statement earlier that “**OPPORTUNITIES COME OUT OF THE PITS OF LIFE**”

1. **Benaiah did not only have a lion in his hands....he had his future in his hands**
  - a. Look at the result of Benaiah chasing this lion
  - b. Look at the result of Benaiah taking a leap of faith and jumping into this pit
  - c. Look at the results of Benaiah killing this lion:
    - (1) 2 Sam 23:22 Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he too was as famous as the three mighty men.  
23 He was held in greater honor than any of the Thirty, but he was not included among the Three. And **David put him in charge of his bodyguard.**
- (a) Benaiah walked into his destiny
- (b) Benaiah walked into his purpose in life
- © Benaiah seen his dream and calling begin to manifest
- (d) Benaiah seen his lion as a KAIROS MOMNET / A DIVINE OPPORTUNITY

- (1) **Resulting in** Benaiah being put in charge of King David's body guards / \ became the head of security

C. There is a difference from a TRANSCRIPT and a RESUME'

1. A **Transcript** reveals what you know
  - a. A **Resume'** reveals what you have done
2. Can you imagine King David pushing aside all the transcripts of the people Who applied to be the head of his Security
  - a. And then King David pulls out the Resume of Benaiah, and it reads:
    - (1) 2 Sam 23:20 There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which included killing two champions of Moab. Another time, on a snowy day, he chased a lion down into a pit and killed it.  
21 Once, armed only with a club, he killed a great Egyptian warrior who was armed with a spear. Benaiah wrenched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with it.
3. Don't forget David was a lion killer:
  - 1 Sam 17:34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,  
35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.  
36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised
  - a. As David read Benaiah's resume' .....memories were stirred .....an anointing of a lion chaser was stirred...and he knew that Benaiah was his man
    - (1) The **world** is look for lion chasers
    - (2) The **Kingdom of God** is looking for lion chasers
    - (3) Pastors; your **congregation** is looking for a lion chaser
    - (4) Your **Employer** is looking for a lion chaser
    - (5) Door to your **future / destiny / promotion** will come your way when:
      - (a) You conqueror your fears
      - (b) quit making excuses
      - © and begin to chase your lion
      - (d) and then take a leap of faith into a "pit of life" and slay your lion
        - (1) defeat the powers of darkness that hold you back
        - (2) conqueror the sin / the habit that has you running in fear

- (3) seize the dream / calling / promotion that God has ordained for your life
- (4) seize your KARIOS MOMENT & watch a divine door of opportunity  
Open for your life

**D. KINGDOM PRINCIPLE:**

Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

- 1. **Lion Chasers are not spectators,,,,,,** their violent...they take steps of faith....  
They get into the midst of spiritual warfare
  - a. **Characteristics of the spiritually violent:** “violent take it (the Kingdom of God) **take it by force**”
    - (1) Def **FORCE:** to catch, to pluck, to seize
  - b. **Lion Chasers know how to seize a Kairos moment / Divine Opportunity**
    - (1) **They know how to chase their dreams & the lions that are holding them back**
    - (2) **Lion Chasers know how to jump into the pits of life...slay their lion...and Walk into their God ordained destiny**

**III. I am not sure what lion God has called you to chase**

- A. I do **not know how long** you will have to chase your lion
  - 1. **But I do know that you will have to chase that lion into a “pit in life”**
    - a. and then be willing to face your fears
    - b. conqueror your doubts
    - c. and put away all your excuses
  - 2. And I also know that The Spirit of God will come upon you as it Did Benaiah  
Because you are anointed of God:
    - a. not just to chase lions
    - b. but also to slay your lion
    - c. and see your dream come to pass, as you walk into your God ordained destiny