



# THE LION, THE LAMB, AND THE LITTLE CHILD

## The Lion, the Lamb, and the Little Child

### Key idea:

Man and nature are vicious and brutal, but Isaiah tells us a great cosmic reversal is coming and it will be led by a little child.

### Key text:

Isaiah 11:6

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.” Isaiah 11:6 (NIV)

### Key points:

1. It is hard to believe lions, wolves, and lambs will defy their nature and get along. It's an idea that is often ridiculed. In the words of Tennyson, Nature is red in tooth and claw.
2. We can discern much from nature about the character of God — his regard for beauty, order, and majesty. But we cannot discern His love.
3. Philosophers in the 19th century surmised a good God could not have created such a cruel natural world. Therefore, God does not exist.
4. Darwin's "Origin of Species," provided an alternate explanation for creation that satisfied those who didn't want to believe in the God of the Bible.
5. Nietzsche's philosophy of the lack of objective standard of good left men to do what was right in their own eyes. Eventually, strong men arose to subjugate others in the name of creating heaven on earth. Instead, they created hell.
6. Are we nothing more than accidents of evolution?
7. Isaiah sees a great cosmic reversal coming when Messiah is born as a child and solve the fundamental problem of all men. He dies for sin.
8. Just as Adam brought physical and spiritual death when he rebelled, the true King brings spiritual and physical renewal.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Does it seem ridiculous that lions and lambs could become roommates?
3. If God created nature and said it was good, how could it have gone so bad?
4. What are the implications for human behavior that 19th century philosophers decided against an objective standard of truth?
5. Can men, by government or force, change people's nature and create a kind of heaven on earth? What is the danger of that?
6. How does Isaiah believe nature will be changed, sin reversed, and the cosmos changed?
7. How does Isaiah describe the coming Messiah in the scriptures discussed?
8. What does it mean when Isaiah describes the coming Messiah as the Prince of peace, wonderful Counselor, everlasting Father, Mighty God.
9. Where do we get the power to give up our grudges and grievances and forgive others?
10. What part do we play in salvation?