

Ezekiel 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.

Analysis

'And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.' The first cub, likely Jehoahaz, grew strong but became predatory—'devoured men' suggests oppressive, violent rule. The progression from nursing to devouring shows moral deterioration. What should have been protective leadership became destructive tyranny. This echoes prophetic critiques of royal oppression (Jeremiah 22:13-17).

Historical Context

Jehoahaz (also called Shallum) reigned only three months (609 BC) before Pharaoh Necho deposed him and took him to Egypt, where he died (2 Kings 23:31-34, Jeremiah 22:10-12). Though his reign was brief, it was characterized as evil in God's sight (2 Kings 23:32).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does power tend to corrupt even those raised with good examples?
2. What safeguards protect leaders from becoming oppressors?

Interlinear Text

וַתַּעַל	אֶחָד	מִגְּדֵי יָהּ	כִּפְּיָר	הָיָה
And she brought up	one	of her whelps	it became a young lion	H1961
H5927	H259	H1482	H3715	
וְלָמַד	לִטְרֹף	טָרֵף	אֲדָמָה	אָכַל:
and it learned	to catch	the prey	men	it devoured
H3925	H2963	H2964	H120	H398

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org