

# Hosea 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him.

## Analysis

God as predator: 'For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him.' The escalation from moth/rotteness (v.12) to lion (שָׁחַל, shachal) and young lion (כְּפִיר, kefir) intensifies judgment imagery. God Himself becomes devouring predator. The emphatic repetition אָنֹכִי אָנֹכִי (anokhi anokhi, 'I, even I') stresses divine agency—not Assyria but YHWH Himself executing judgment through historical means. The progression—tear (תָּרַף, taraph), depart, carry off, none rescues—depicts complete, irreversible destruction. This terrifying image shows that fighting against God ensures defeat. Yet paradoxically, Christ is also Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5) who conquers through self-sacrifice, not devouring others but being devoured for others.

## Historical Context

Lion imagery for God appears throughout Scripture (Job 10:16, Lamentations 3:10, Amos 1:2, 3:8). As creator of all, God stands above all creatures, able to use any image to describe His actions. The historical fulfillment came through Assyria (for Israel) and Babylon (for Judah)—nations God explicitly calls 'my servant' (Jeremiah 25:9, 27:6, 43:10). God's sovereignty means He orchestrates historical events to accomplish covenant purposes. The completeness of destruction ('none shall rescue') proved accurate: no alliance, military effort, or political scheme prevented northern kingdom's obliteration. This demonstrates that opposing divine purposes

ensures defeat, but submitting to divine discipline (even painful) leads ultimately to restoration.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the terrifying image of God as lion demonstrate the seriousness of covenant violation and divine holiness?
2. What is the relationship between God executing judgment (as lion) and Christ bearing judgment (as Lamb of God)?

## Interlinear Text

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לְאָפָרֶן יְמִינְךָ אַנְכִּי כִּי	אַכְכִּפְתִּיר	H3588	H595	כִּשׁ חָל	לְאָפָרֶן יְמִינְךָ אַנְכִּי כִּי	H7826	H669	מִתְּבָרְךָ יְהוָה	H3715
	For I will be unto Ephraim and as a young lion								
to the house of Judah I will even tear	I will take away	H1004	H3063	H589	H589	H2963	H1980	H5375	
and none shall rescue		H369							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 7:2** (Parallel theme): Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

**Micah 5:8** (Parallel theme): And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

**Psalms 50:22** (Parallel theme): Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

**Isaiah 5:29** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Amos 2:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

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