

Isaiah 5:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The lion imagery—roaring, seizing prey, carrying away with none to deliver—depicts judgment's terrifying finality. Lions symbolize strength and predatory success; applying this to invading armies shows covenant people becoming prey to former subordinates. The phrase 'none shall deliver' emphasizes abandonment: God, Israel's traditional deliverer, now commissions their destruction. This inverts Exodus deliverance, showing that covenant breaking transforms God from savior to judge.

Historical Context

Judah's various appeals for deliverance (Egyptian alliance, tribute to Assyria) proved futile. When God determines judgment, no human intervention avails.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's transformation from deliverer to judge demonstrate the seriousness of covenant unfaithfulness?
2. What false 'deliverers' do we trust in when experiencing divine discipline?

Interlinear Text

כִּכְפֵּר יְמִינָה שָׁאָגָה
Their roaring ^{H0} shall be like a lion they shall roar like young lions
H7581 H3833 H7580 H3715

וַיַּגְהֵם וַיַּאֲכִל זְבַח וַיַּנְפֵּל יָטָר אֵין
yea they shall roar and lay hold of the prey and shall carry it away safe ^{H369}
H5098 H270 H2964 H6403

מִצְאֵל:
and none shall deliver
H5337

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:22 (Parallel theme): But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

Zechariah 11:3 (Parallel theme): There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled.

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.