

# Psalm 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

## Analysis

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The double lion metaphor—a lion 'eager to tear' and a young lion 'lurking in ambush'—portrays predatory evil. The Hebrew 'kasaph' (eager/long) suggests intense desire to destroy. This imagery recalls Satan as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8) and anticipates Revelation's imagery of beastly persecution. Reformed theology recognizes that Satan works through human agents to oppose God's people.

## Historical Context

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Lions were real threats in ancient Israel's wilderness, making this powerful imagery for human predators. Young lions were especially dangerous as hungry hunters.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do you recognize predatory evil even when disguised or hidden?
2. What spiritual disciplines help you remain alert to danger?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁבַבְתִּי כִּי אָרַיהַ דָּמָוִן וְ  
like as a lion that is greedy of his prey and as it were a young lion lurking  
H1825 H738 H3700 H2963 H3715 H3427

בְּמִסְתְּרִים:

in secret places

H4565

## 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.

**Psalms 10:9** (Parallel theme): He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

**1 Peter 5:8** (Kingdom): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

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