

Psalm 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

Analysis

David uses vivid imagery of a lion tearing prey to describe the danger from his enemy. The Hebrew 'taraph' (tear) and 'paraq' (rend) convey violent destruction. The phrase 'while there is none to deliver' emphasizes David's helplessness apart from divine intervention. This metaphor appears throughout Scripture for enemies who devour the helpless (1 Peter 5:8). The prayer anticipates Christ, who was surrounded by 'strong bulls of Bashan' and 'dogs' (Psalm 22:12,16) yet trusted the Father to deliver Him through death to resurrection.

Historical Context

Written when David fled from Cush the Benjamite (superscription), possibly during Saul's pursuit or Absalom's rebellion. Lions were real threats in ancient Israel's wilderness, making this metaphor visceral. The cry for deliverance when surrounded by predatory enemies resonates throughout persecution narratives in Scripture and church history.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'lions' threaten to devour you spiritually, emotionally, or physically?
2. How does knowing God as your deliverer affect how you face predatory threats?

Interlinear Text

לְתַear יְהִי כַּאֲרִי הַנֶּפֶשׁ | פְּרִקְעָה | אֵין |
H6435 Lest he tear like a lion my soul rending it in pieces H369
H2963 H738 H5315 H6561

מֵאֵל:

while there is none to deliver

H5337

Additional Cross-References

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 38:13 (Parallel theme): I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.