~LION (709)

[Hebrew, 'ar-yeh', 'ari', la-vi'', la'yish, sha'chal, young lion, kephir' maned young lion, levi-yah', lioness, Aramaic, 'ar-yeh', Greek, le'on]
... Ornamental And Figurative Use

- A large, tawny-colored mammal of the cat family having a long, tufted tail. The distinctive shaggy mane of the male begins to grow when the animal is about three years old.
- · Although now extinct in Palestine, anciently lions were very plentiful there. They were found in the area of the Anti-Lebanon and Hermon ranges
- With me from Lebanon, O bride, with me from Lebanon may you come. May you descend from the top of Anti-Lebanon, from the top of Senir, even Hermon, from the lairs of lions, from the mountains of leopards. (Song of Solomon 4:8)
- The thickets along the Jordan;
- Look! Someone will come up just like a lion from the proud thickets along the Jordan to the durable abiding place, but in a moment I will make him run away from her. And the one who is chosen I shall appoint over her. For who is like me, and who will challenge me, and who, now, is the shepherd that can stand before me? (Jeremiah 49:19)
- Look! Someone will come up just like a lion from the proud thickets along the Jordan to the durable abiding place, but in a moment I shall make them run away from her. And the one who is chosen I shall appoint over her. For who is like me, and who will challenge me, and who, now, is the shepherd that can stand before me? (Jeremiah 50:44)
- Listen! The howling of shepherds, for their majesty has been despoiled. Listen! The roaring of maned young lions, for the proud thickets along the Jordan have been despoiled. (Zechariah 11:3)
- And in the land of distress and hard conditions, that is, the wilderness to the South of Judah.

- The pronouncement against the beasts of the south. Through the land of distress and hard conditions, of the lion and the leopard growling, of the viper and the flying fiery snake, on the shoulders of full-grown asses they carry their resources, and on the humps of camels their supplies. In behalf of the people they will prove of no benefit. (Isaiah 30:6)
- Who caused you to walk through the great and fear-inspiring wilderness, with poisonous serpents and scorpions and with thirsty ground that has no water, who brought forth water for you out of the flinty rock. (Deuteronomy 8:15)
- There were times when shepherds had to protect the flock from lions. David on one occasion courageously struck down a lion and rescued the sheep it had taken.
- And David went on to say to Saul; Your servant became a shepherd of his father among the flock, and there came a lion, and also a bear, and each carried off a sheep from the drove. (1 Samuel 17:34)
- And I went out after it and struck it down and made the rescue from its mouth. When it began rising against me, I grabbed hold of its beard and struck it down and put it to death. (1 Samuel 17:35)
- This, however, was exceptional. Frequently even a full number of shepherds could not frighten away a maned young lion.
- For this is what Yehowah has said to me; Just as the lion growls, even the maned young lion, over its prey, when there is called out against it a full number of shepherds, and in spite of their voice he will not be terrified and in spite of their commotion he will not stoop, in the same way Yehowah of armies will come down to wage war over Mount Zion and over her hill. (Isaiah 31:4)
- Sometimes the shepherd recovered merely a portion of the domestic animal from the lion's mouth.
- This is what Yehowah has said; Just as the shepherd snatches away from the mouth of the lion two shanks or a piece of an ear, so the sons of Israel will be snatched away, those sitting in Samaria on a splendid couch and on a Damascene divan. (Amos

- Thereby enabling him to present the needed evidence to free him from having to make compensation.
- If it should for a fact be torn by a wild beast, he is to bring it as evidence. For something torn by a wild beast he is not to make compensation. (Exodus 22:13)
- · Although David, Samson, and Benaiah single-handedly killed lions.
- Accordingly Samson went on down with his father and his mother to Timnah. When he got as far as the vineyards of Timnah, why, look! A maned young lion roaring upon meeting him. (Judges 14:5)
- Then Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, so that he tore it in two, just as someone tears a male kid in two, and there was nothing at all in his hand. And he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. (Judges 14:6)
- Both the lion and the bear your servant struck down, and this uncircumcised Philistine must become like one of them, for he has taunted the battle lines of the living God. (1 Samuel 17:36)
- As for Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the son of a valiant man, who did many deeds in Kabzeel, he himself struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab, and he himself descended and struck down a lion inside a waterpit on a day of snowfall. (2 Samuel 23:20)
- Others did not escape the lion's paw.
- And it came about at the start of their dwelling there that they did not fear Yehowah. Therefore Yehowah sent lions among them, and they came to be killers among them. (2 Kings 17:25)
- So they sent word to the king of Assyria, saying; The nations that you have taken into exile and then settled in the cities of Samaria have not known the religion of the God of the land, so that he keeps sending lions among them, and, look! They are putting them to death, inasmuch as there are none knowing the religion of the God of the land. (2 Kings 17:26)

- Yehowah used lions to execute his judgment on a prophet who had disobeyed him.
- And he got on his way. Later a lion found him on the road and put him to death, and his dead body came to be thrown onto the road. And the ass was standing beside it, and the lion was standing beside the dead body. (1 Kings 13:24)
- And here there were men passing by, so that they got to see the dead body thrown onto the road and the lion standing beside the dead body. Then they came in and spoke of it in the city in which the old prophet was dwelling. (1 Kings 13:25)
- When the prophet that had brought him back from the way heard of it, he immediately said; It is the man of the true God that rebelled against the order of Yehowah, and so Yehowah gave him to the lion, that he might crush him and put him to death, according to the word of Yehowah that he spoke to him. (1 Kings 13:26)
- And he went on to speak to his sons, saying; Saddle the ass for me. So they saddled it. (1 Kings 13:27)
- Then he got on his way and found the dead body of him thrown onto the road with the ass and the lion standing beside the dead body. The lion had not eaten the dead body, nor had it crushed the ass. (1 Kings 13:28)
- And on a man who refused to cooperate with one of His prophets.
- Therefore he said to him; For the reason that you did not listen to the voice of Yehowah, here you are going away from me, and a lion will certainly strike you down. After that he went away from beside him, and the lion got to find him and strike him down. (1 Kings 20:36)
- The Scriptures repeatedly allude to the characteristics and habits of the lion, including its thunderous roar and its growling.
- The raging of a king is a growling like that of a maned young lion, but his goodwill is like the dew upon the vegetation. (Proverbs 19:12)
- The frightfulness of a king is a growling like that of a maned

- young lion. Anyone drawing his fury against himself is sinning against his own soul. (Proverbs 20:2)
- Will a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey? Will a young maned lion give forth its voice from its hiding place if it has caught nothing at all? (Amos 3:4)
- There is a lion that has roared! Who will not be afraid? The Sovereign Lord Yehowah himself has spoken! Who will not prophesy? (Amos 3:8)
- The lion does not usually roar when hunting wild animals. However, when trying to prey upon domestic animals in an enclosure, a lion often will roar.
- The terrifying sound is calculated to cause a stampede to break down the protective fence and to isolate individual animals from the flock. The animal does well in its pacing.
- There are three that do well in their pacing, and four that do well in their moving along. (Proverbs 30:29)
- The lion, which is the mightiest among the beasts and which does not turn back from before anyone. (Proverbs 30:30)
- Its strength is proverbial.
- So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before ever he could go into the interior room. What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion? In turn he said to them; If you had not plowed with my young cow, you would not have solved my riddle. (Judges 14:18)
- The lion, which is the mightiest among the beasts and which does not turn back from before anyone. (Proverbs 30:30)
- A single blow from the lions powerful paw is enough to break the neck of a small antelope. The lion can kill and carry animals larger than itself, and its short, strong jaws are equipped with teeth of sufficient strength to break large bones.
- O God, knock out their teeth in their mouth. Break down the very jawbones of maned young lions, O Yehowah. (Psalms 58:6)

- For there is a nation that has come up into my land, mighty and without number. Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the jawbones of a lion. (Joel 1:6)
- I have soothed myself until the morning. Like a lion, so he keeps breaking all my bones, from daylight till night you keep handing me over. (Isaiah 38:13)
- Little wonder that the lazy man is depicted as excusing his failure to act with the words.
- The lazy one has said; There is a lion outside! In the midst of the public squares I shall be murdered! (Proverbs 22:13)
- The lazy one has said; There is a young lion in the way, a lion in among the public squares. (Proverbs 26:13)
- However, being carnivorous, lions may perish for lack of prey.
- A lion is perishing from there being no prey, and the cubs of a lion are separated from one another. (Job 4:11)
- The maned young lions themselves have had little on hand and gone hungry, but as for those seeking Yehowah, they will not lack anything good. (Psalms 34:10)
- And a live dog, although despised, is better off than a once majestic, but now dead lion.
- For as respects whoever is joined to all the living there exists confidence, because a live dog is better off than a dead lion. (Ecclesiastes 9:4)
- The lion generally spends part of the day sleeping in its lair and does most of its hunting at night. In procuring its food, the animal either resorts to ambush or stalks its prey until close enough to make a short rush.
- Can you hunt prey for a lion itself and can you satisfy the lively appetite of young lions. (Job 38:39)
- When they crouch in the hiding places, or keep lying in the covert for an ambush? (Job 38:40)

- He keeps lying in wait in the concealed place like a lion in his covert. He keeps lying in wait to carry off some afflicted one by force. He carries off the afflicted one by force when he draws his net shut. (Psalms 10:9)
- As a bear lying in wait he is to me, as a lion in places of concealment. (Lamentations 3:10)
- Then it can move in at a speed of about 65 kilometers/hour (40 miles/hour). In order to gain necessary experience in killing prey, lion cubs begin to accompany their mother on hunts when three months old.
- They are weaned after six or seven months, reach sexual maturity in their fourth year, and attain full physical size in six years.
- And you must say; What was your mother? A lioness among lions. She lay down in among maned young lions. She reared her cubs. (Ezekiel 19:2)
- And gradually she brought up one of her cubs. A maned young lion is what he became, and he began to learn how to tear apart prey. He devoured even earthling man. (Ezekiel 19:3)
- Lions have long been hunted by man. Pits and nets were employed to capture them.
- And gradually she brought up one of her cubs. A maned young lion is what he became, and he began to learn how to tear apart prey. He devoured even earthling man. (Ezekiel 19:3)
- And nations kept hearing about him. In their pit he was caught, and they proceeded to bring him by means of hooks to the land of Egypt. (Ezekiel 19:4)
- Finally they put him in the cage by means of hooks and brought him to the king of Babylon. They got to bring him by means of hunting nets, in order, that his voice might no more be heard on the mountains of Israel. (Ezekiel 19:9)
- In ancient Assyria, hunting lions was a favorite sport of the monarch. Either on horseback or in his chariot, the king, armed with bow and arrows, pursued the lions.

- Hungry lions were anciently used to inflict capital punishment. Protected by Yehowah's angel, the prophet Daniel escaped this fate.
- Accordingly the king himself commanded, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the pit of the lions. The king was answering and saying to Daniel; Your God whom you are serving with constancy, he himself will rescue you. (Daniel 6:16)
- And a stone was brought and placed on the mouth of the pit, and the king sealed it with his signet ring and with the signet ring of his grandees, in order, that nothing should be changed in the case of Daniel. (Daniel 6:17)
- My own God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions, and they have not brought me to ruin, forasmuch as before him innocence itself was found in me, and also before you, O king, no hurtful act have I done. (Daniel 6:22)
- And the king commanded, and they brought these able-bodied men who had accused Daniel, and into the lions pit they threw them, their sons and their wives, and they had not reached the bottom of the pit before the lions had got the mastery over them, and all their bones they crushed. (Daniel 6:24)
- Who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. (Hebrews 11:33)
- In the First Century C.E, the apostle Paul was delivered from the lion's mouth, either literally or figuratively.
- But the Lord stood near me and infused power into me, that through me the preaching might be fully accomplished and all the nations might hear it, and I was delivered from the lion's mouth. (2 Timothy 4:17)

·· Ornamental And Figurative Use

- Engraved lions ornamented the sidewalls of the copper carriages designated for temple use.
- And he went on to make the ten carriages of copper, four cubits being the length of each carriage, and four cubits its width, and three cubits its height. (1 Kings 7:27)

- And this was the workmanship of the carriages, they had sidewalls, and the sidewalls were between the crossbars. (1 Kings 7:28)
- And upon the sidewalls that were between the crossbars there were lions, bulls and cherubs, and over the crossbars it was like that. Up above and beneath the lions and the bulls there were wreaths in hanging work. (1 Kings 7:29)
- And there were four wheels of copper to each carriage, with axles of copper, and its four cornerpieces were supports for them. Beneath the basin were the supports, cast with wreaths across from each. (1 Kings 7:30)
- And its mouth from inside to the supports and upward was, an unknown number of cubits, and its mouth was round, the workmanship of a stand of one and a half cubits, and also upon its mouth there were carvings. And their sidewalls were squared, not round. (1 Kings 7:31)
- And the four wheels were down below the sidewalls, and the supports of the wheels were by the carriage, and the height of each wheel was one and a half cubits. (1 Kings 7:32)
- And the workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel. Their supports and their felloes and their spokes and their hubs, they were all cast. (1 Kings 7:33)
- And there were four supports upon the four corners of each carriage, its supports were of one piece with the carriage. (1 Kings 7:34)
- And on top of the carriage there was a stand a half a cubit in height, circular all around, and upon the top of the carriage its sides and its sidewalls were of one piece with it. (1 Kings 7:35)
- Further, he engraved upon the plates of its sides and upon its sidewalls cherubs, lions and palm-tree figures according to the clear space of each, and wreaths all around. (1 Kings 7:36)
- And the figures of 12 lions lined the steps leading up to Solomon's throne, in addition to the two lions that were standing beside the armrests.

- There were six steps to the throne, and the throne had a round canopy behind it, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing beside the armrests. (1 Kings 10:19)
- And there were twelve lions standing there upon the six steps, on this side and on that side. No other kingdom had any made just like it. (1 Kings 10:20)
- · Also, the temple seen in vision by Ezekiel was adorned with cherubs having two faces, one of a man and the other of a maned young lion.
- Even carved cherubs and palm-tree figures, with a palm-tree figure between a cherub and a cherub, and the cherub had two faces. (Ezekiel 41:18)
- And the face of a man was toward the palm-tree figure on this side, and the face of a maned young lion was toward the palm-tree figure on that side, they being carved on the whole house all around. (Ezekiel 41:19)
- Most of the Scriptural references to the lion are figurative, or illustrative. The entire nation of Israel.
- Behold, a people will get up like a lion, and like the lion it will lift itself up. It will not lie down until it may eat prey, and the blood of slain ones it will drink. (Numbers 23:24)
- He bowed down, he lay down like the lion, and, like a lion, who dares rouse him? Those blessing you are the ones blessed, and those cursing you are the ones cursed. (Numbers 24:9)
- And individually the tribes of Judah.
- A lion cub Judah is. From the prey, my son, you will certainly go up. He bowed down, he stretched himself out like a lion and, like a lion, who dares rouse him? (Genesis 49:9)
- · Gad
- And as to Gad he said; Blessed is the one widening the borders of Gad. As a lion he must reside, and he must tear the arm, yes,

the crown of the head. (Deuteronomy 33:20)

- Were prophetically compared to lions, representative of invincibility and courage in righteous warfare.
- And even the valiant man whose heart is as the heart of the lion will himself surely soften in weakness, for all Israel is aware that your father is a mighty man and so, too, are the valiant men that are with him. (2 Samuel 17:10)
- And there were some of the Gadites that separated themselves to David's side at the place difficult to approach in the wilderness, valiant, mighty men, army men for the war, keeping the large shield and the lance ready, whose faces were the faces of lions, and they were like the gazelles upon the mountains for speed. (1 Chronicles 12:8)
- The wicked do flee when there is no pursuer, but the righteous are like a young lion that is confident. (Proverbs 28:1)
- Yehowah likens himself to a lion in executing judgment on his unfaithful people.
- For I shall be like a young lion to Ephraim and like a maned young lion to the house of Judah. I, I myself shall tear to pieces and I shall go and carry off, and there will be no deliverer. (Hosea 5:14)
- After Yehowah they will walk. Like a lion he will roar, for he himself will roar, and sons will come trembling from the west. (Hosea 11:10)
- And I shall become to them like a young lion. Like a leopard by the way I shall keep looking. (Hosea 13:7)
- I shall encounter them like a bear that has lost its cubs, and I shall rip apart the enclosure of their heart. And I shall devour them there like a lion, a wild beast of the field itself will tear them to pieces. (Hosea 13:8)
- It will certainly bring you to ruin, O Israel, because it was against me, against your helper. (Hosea 13:9)

- And God's foremost judicial officer, Jesus Christ, is the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah.
- But one of the elders says to me; Stop weeping. Look! The Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals. (Revelation 5:5)
- Appropriately, therefore, the lion, as a symbol of courageous justice, is associated with Yehowah's presence and throne.
- And as for the likeness of their faces, the four of them had a man's face with a lion's face to the right, and the four of them had a bull's face on the left, the four of them also had an eagle's face. (Ezekiel 1:10)
- And each one had four faces. The first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was the face of earthling man, and the third was the face of a lion, and the fourth was the face of an eagle. (Ezekiel 10:14)
- And the first living creature is like a lion, and the second living creature is like a young bull, and the third living creature has a face like a man's, and the fourth living creature is like a flying eagle. (Revelation 4:7)
- Because of the lion's fierce, rapacious, and predatory characteristics, the animal was also used to represent wicked ones
- He keeps lying in wait in the concealed place like a lion in his covert. He keeps lying in wait to carry off some afflicted one by force. He carries off the afflicted one by force when he draws his net shut. (Psalms 10:9)
- Persons who oppose Yehowah and his people.
- They have opened against me their mouth, as a lion tearing in pieces and roaring. (Psalms 22:13)
- O Yehowah, how long will you keep seeing it? Do bring back my soul from their ravages, even my only one from the maned young lions. (Psalms 35:17)
- My soul is in the middle of lions. I cannot but lie down among devourers, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and

arrows, and whose tongue is a sharp sword. (Psalms 57:4)

My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest. She has let loose her voice even against me. That is why I have hated her. (Jeremiah 12:8)

False prophets

- There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst of her, like the roaring lion, tearing prey. A soul they actually devour. Treasure and precious things they keep taking. Her widows they have multiplied in the midst of her. (Ezekiel 22:25)
- Wicked rulers and princes.
- As a growling lion and an onrushing bear is a wicked ruler over a lowly people. (Proverbs 28:15)
- Her princes in the midst of her were roaring lions. Her judges were evening wolves that did not gnaw bones till the morning. (Zephaniah 3:3)
- The Babylonian World Power.
- The first one was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I kept on beholding until its wings were plucked out, and it was lifted up from the earth and was made to stand up on two feet just like a man, and there was given to it the heart of a man. (Daniel 7:4)
- And Satan the Devil.
- Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone. (1 Peter 5:8)
- · And the seven-headed, ten-horned wild beast out of the sea, which derives its authority from Satan, was depicted as having a lion's mouth.
- Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were as those of a bear, and its mouth was as a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2)

- Upon the young lion and the cobra you will tread. You will trample down the maned young lion and the big snake. (Psalms 91:13)
- The lion and the cobra seem to denote the power of the enemy, the lion being representative of open attack and the cobra of underhanded scheming, or attacks from a concealed place.
- Look! I have given you the authority to trample underfoot serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will by any means do you hurt. (Luke 10:19)
- But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be corrupted away from the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- At the time the Israelites returned to their homeland in 537 B.C.E, Yehowah evidently protected them from lions and other rapacious beasts along the way.
- And there will certainly come to be a highway there, even a way, and the Way of Holiness it will be called. The unclean one will not pass over it. And it will be for the one walking on the way, and no foolish ones will wander about on it. (Isaiah 35:8)
- No lion will prove to be there, and the rapacious sort of wild beasts will not come up on it. None will be found there, and the repurchased ones must walk there. (Isaiah 35:9)
- And the very ones redeemed by Yehowah will return and certainly come to Zion with a joyful cry, and rejoicing to time indefinite will be upon their head. To exultation and rejoicing they will attain, and grief and sighing must flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)
- In the land itself lions and other predators doubtless had increased during the 70 years of its desolation.
- I shall not drive them out from before you in one year, that the land may not become a desolate waste and the wild beasts of the field really multiply against you. (Exodus 23:29)

- But, evidently because of Yehowah's watch care over his people, the Israelites and their domestic animals apparently did not fall prey to lions as had the foreign peoples whom the king of Assyria settled in the cities of Samaria.
- And it came about at the start of their dwelling there that they did not fear Yehowah. Therefore Yehowah sent lions among them, and they came to be killers among them. (2 Kings 17:25)
- So they sent word to the king of Assyria, saying; The nations that you have taken into exile and then settled in the cities of Samaria have not known the religion of the God of the land, so that he keeps sending lions among them, and, look! They are putting them to death, inasmuch as there are none knowing the religion of the God of the land. (2 Kings 17:26)
- Therefore, from the standpoint of the Israelites, the lion was, in effect, eating straw like a bull, that is, doing no harm to them or their domestic animals.
- But exult, you people, and be joyful forever in what I am creating. For here I am creating Jerusalem a cause for joyfulness and her people a cause for exultation. (Isaiah 65:18)
- And I will be joyful in Jerusalem and exult in my people, and no more will there be heard in her the sound of weeping or the sound of a plaintive cry. (Isaiah 65:19)
- The wolf and the lamb themselves will feed as one, and the lion will eat straw just like the bull, and as for the serpent, his food will be dust. They will do no harm nor cause any ruin in all my holy mountain, Yehowah has said. (Isaiah 65:25)
- Under Messiah's rulership, however, there comes to be a greater fulfillment of the restoration prophecies. Persons who may at one time have been of a beastly, animalistic, vicious disposition come to be at peace with more docile fellow human's and do not seek to do them harm or injury. Both in a literal and a figurative sense, peace will come to exist between lions and domestic animals.
- And there must go forth a twig out of the stump of Jesse, and out of his roots a sprout will be fruitful. (Isaiah 11:1)
- And upon him the spirit of Yehowah must settle down, the spirit

of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of mightiness, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yehowah. (Isaiah 11:2)

- And there will be enjoyment by him in the fear of Yehowah. And he will not judge by any mere appearance to his eyes, nor reprove simply according to the thing heard by his ears. (Isaiah 11:3)
- And with righteousness he must judge the lowly ones, and with uprightness he must give reproof in behalf of the meek ones of the earth. And he must strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the spirit of his lips he will put the wicked one to death. (Isaiah 11:4)
- And righteousness must prove to be the belt of his hips, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (Isaiah 11:5)
- And the wolf will actually reside for a while with the male lamb, and with the kid the leopard itself will lie down, and the calf and the maned young lion and the well-fed animal all together, and a mere little boy will be leader over them. (Isaiah 11:6)

See Also BEASTS, SYMBOLIC