

# BE BOLD, BE STRONG

## LIONS AMBUSH THEIR PREY

*Psalm 10:9 "Like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless."*

Some animals are called ambush predators or lie-in-wait predators. These are meat eating animals that capture or trap their food by sneaking up on it and pouncing with a surprise attack. Maybe you have a cat that you've seen slowly and quietly kneel down close to the ground on all four feet and slowly move forward toward a mouse or unsuspecting toy until it suddenly makes its move and pounces on the unsuspecting target. Ambush predators are known to slowly scan the area from a hidden position and then rapidly attack their prey. Usually they remain motionless until the unsuspecting victim is well within reach.

There are many types of ambush predators. Animals in the cat family are in this group. House cats, leopards, panthers, cougars, tigers, and of course lions are all lie-in-wait predators. Two other well-known animals that hunt this way are the alligator and crocodile. Both lie a few inches below the water's surface showing only their eyes and nostrils and wait for unsuspecting prey to wander into the area. Suddenly they lunge toward the target catching it by surprise. Another animal in this group is the snapping turtle. Likewise they spring upon their next meal and catch it with their beak-like jaws. Some of the best known ambush predators are the family of snakes. We've all seen videos of snakes slowly and quietly slithering up to their future meals when suddenly like a flash they strike at the opponent. Before the unsuspecting animal can react, it is dinner for the hungry snake.

Our Scripture verse for today speaks of lions as ambush predators. It says, *"Like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless."* These words are from a psalm that speaks about the devil lying and waiting to catch unsuspecting children of God. It tells us that this world is filled with evil people who are workers for Satan. They try to find innocent children of God to catch and destroy. And like animal ambush predators, these evil people are cunning and devious. They try to nab God's children through crafty ways by using television programs, websites, dirty photographs, shameful language, and unfaithful friends to catch and pull them toward their evil ways. They try to keep God's people from church, and tell them that the Bible cannot be believed because it contains stories that are not real. Satan's workers are all lie-in-wait predators. There is nothing they would like more than to catch an unsuspecting Christian and turn him or her into another of Satan's followers.

But God has promised to help us fight against such ambush predators. He has given us armor to protect us. Paul tells us in Ephesians that God has given us the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the boots of the gospel, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation to protect us. And we must be careful never to take off that armor, for as soon as we do, the ambush predators of Satan are ready to pounce and claim another victory. Be strong. Be bold. Put on God's armor so you can stand up against Satan's ambush predators.