



# Abba Mother

## Our Father's Motherly Ferocity

May 10, 2026

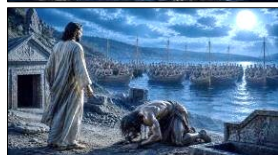
*Today we're celebrating our Father's frighteningly ferocious Motherly love!*



But we gotta *build* to it. So answer this: **Was Jesus a big bully?** Absolutely! The *biggest!* Oh my goodness, He's *flipping tables* and *chasing hustlers* and *racketeers* around the *Temple* with a *whip!* (Mt 21:12; Jn 2:15) He *wades* into a *graveyard* at *night* to take on an *infamous, terrifying, chain-busting maniac*, who was *tormented* by a *legion of demons*. But, *they* shouted:



"Son of God ... Have You come here to torment us?" – Matthew 8:29 NRS



Yes! Because: **Truth torments those who live in the dark.** Which is why the mere presence of the *Light* tormented the *Prince of Darkness*.



[He] fell down ... [saying] "I beg You, do not torment me!" – Luke 8:28 NKJ

Because: **Demonic torment can't hold a candle to divine counter-torment.** You know what we call a *virtuous bully?* A *hero*. A *savior!* It's the *setup* for every *superhero* movie ever made: **Good bully destroys bad bullies.** And those **demons didn't just see Jesus as Tormentor, but Destroyer!** Remember the *guy* who *pitched* a *demonic fit* in the *synagogue?*



He cried out ... "Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the *Holy One of God!*" – Mark 1:23-24 NAB



[And] Indeed, the *Son of God* was *revealed* to *destroy* the *works of the devil*. [POW!] [We're still building to it] – 1 John 3:8 NAB

[Because] Even the *demons* believe *that* and *tremble*. – James 2:19 NAB

They *don't* just *believe*, they're *shakin'* in their *boots* ... or rather, *under His!* Because as *foretold*:

"He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel." – Genesis 3:15 NIV

Which took place on the *cross* on *Golgotha* (lit. *place of the skull*) a.k.a. *Calvary* (i.e. *Cranium*). So, *hmm* ... **crushed skull vs. heel bite. Fatal dominance vs. temporary injury.** And Jesus didn't stop at *disarming* and *defanging* those *bullies*. The *cross* was a *setup* to *display* their *defeat!*

Having disarmed the *powers* and *authorities*, He made a public spectacle of them, [by] triumphing over them by [way of] the *cross*. [By rising to life] – Colossians 2:15 NIV

So that by His [public] *death* He might *destroy* him who *holds* the *power of death*—that is, the *devil*— and *free* those ... *held* in *slavery* by their fear of death. – Hebrews 2:14-15 NIV



**Not negotiate. Not restrain. “Disarm” and “destroy”.** And cast ‘em out. For:

Perfect love casts out fear, because *fear* involves torment. – 1 John 4:18 NKJ



“Now [Jesus said] the ruler of this world will be cast out.” – John 12:31 NKJ

[Because] “I have given you the authority to trample on snakes ... and to destroy all the enemy’s power” – Luke 10:19 ISV



For God gave us a Spirit not of fear [of death or the devil] but of power [to conquer] and love [to overpower] and self-control. [to resist] – 2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

Therefore submit to God. [And] Resist the devil and he will flee from you. – James 4:7-8 NKJ

[As long as you submit to God and] Flee the evil desires of [immature, impure] youth, and pursue [growth and strength and maturity in] righteousness, faith, love and peace ... [and] call on the Lord [for help] out of [the good desires of] a pure heart. – 2 Timothy 2:22 NIV

[So, come on] Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good. – Romans 12:21 NAB

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. [By submitting to His resistance training] Put on the full [spiritual] armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. [And not just resist, but trample and destroy] For our struggle is ... against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil – Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV

For we [as believers] are not unaware of [Satan’s] schemes. – 2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV



There was a kid in my class, my freshman year, who was routinely tormented in the locker room by a pack of older boys. Over the summer, he worked out like crazy. And when school began, he gave each one a very public, humiliating trampling. I’m not advocating violence in any way. I’m just enjoying bullies getting their comeuppance! And comparing it to spiritual growth and strength that likewise only comes by resistance training and self-discipline. So we can get fit to fight back against Satan’s schemes. Therefore:



Be self-controlled and alert. [B-E alert!] Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring [beaten] lion looking for someone [weak] to devour. – 1 Peter 5:8 NIV

Know why our Father allows this predator to stalk us? Cuz, temptation provides resistance training. It’s the only thing that allows us to exercise endurance and self-discipline, and build up our reliance and trust, and strengthen our love for Him above all else, and love for others as our self.

[So] Be wise in what is good, [bulk up] and simple concerning evil. [Get cut] And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. – Romans 16:19-20 NKJ

Cuz the peace that passes understanding belongs to the One who crushed Satan’s skull! And in every superhero movie, the victims rejoice when the holy bully bullies the unholy bullies! Well ...

The lions may roar and growl, yet the teeth of the great lions are broken. – Job 4:10 NIV

For You [O Lord my God] have struck all my enemies ... [and] You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. [Because] Salvation belongs to the Lord. – Psalm 3:7-8 NKJ

Break their teeth in their mouth, O God! [POW!] Break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord! [BAM!] – Psalm 58:6 NKJ

Okay. I think we've built to it; so I'll just say it: **Mothers are the biggest bullies in God's creation!**



In the good way. In 2nd grade, my son Keaton had a bully named Billy. Billy the bully. And Keaton told his mother about it. Now, **tell your dad about it, and he teaches you how to stand up to him.** Tell your mom about it, and she goes to Lucille Umbarger. Hunts him down like a lioness. And finds him. Puts a firm paw on his shoulder. And says, in a smiling-menacing way, "I hear you and my son Keaton are friends. I sure hope you stay friends." Billy just nodded. And never bullied Keaton again. And in fact, they became friends. All because, **mom bullied the bully on her child's behalf.** But here's the thing: **the best attributes of both Fathers and Mothers embody something of God,** who said that He created us male and female in His own image. (Gen 1:27) And **He uses a lot of maternal images to depict His nature as our Comforter and Protector.** Jesus famously compared himself to a Hen with chicks. And it doesn't stop there. But let's start there. Where Jesus said:

"O Jerusalem ... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" – Luke 13:34 NIV

In Jesus' day, the fringed corners of a Jewish cloak carried rich wing-imagery in Scripture.

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though [to be honest] she may forget, I will not forget you!" – Isaiah 49:15 NIV

[Even though] You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth. [Which is why we need to be reborn] – Deuteronomy 32:18 ESV

[For] "I will comfort you as a mother comforts her child." – Isaiah 66:13 NCV

So I will be like a Lion to them [who seek to devour my cubs] ... [and] like a bear robbed of her cubs, and ... I will also devour them like a lioness – Hosea 13:7-8 NAS



Cuz when it comes to her cubs, it's the lioness who provides and comforts and protects. **It's a picture of a mother's warm, comforting arms – and claws.** Now, add to that the terrifying drive of a Syrian brown bear going after her cubs. Cuz the Lord uses the blend of those two maternal images to describe His own protective fury. But, **a lioness isn't raising pets. She's raising hunters.** So, they watch her. And imitate her, by pouncing and wrestling. And then **she'll even bring them weakened prey** with which to practice and grow and develop. Cuz, **like the Lord, she's not just feeding, she's forming.** So, which is it? Does Jesus crush and devour and destroy the power of our enemy, or is it left up to us to resist and fight and flee? Well, it's both you see. Because, just like a lioness, to which He compares Himself:

He will not *let* you be tempted *beyond your ability* ... that you may be *able* to endure it.  
[And *learn* from it; and *grow*] Therefore, my beloved, *flee* – 1 Corinthians 10:13-14 ESV



**Not in fear. In training.** The devil's been *beaten*. Jesus *crushed* him. Get a *good look*. Cuz *that's* who's *harassing* you. And **we're given the duty, honor, glory, and power to finish him off.** So, the *Lion of Judah* leaves just enough *fight* to *teach* and *train* and *discipline* and *develop* us *cubs*. Cuz, **every temptation is pre-approved for resistance training.** By our *Teacher, Trainer, and Father Hen*.

[Who said] "Everyone who is *fully trained* will be *like* his *teacher*." – Luke 6:40 NIV

[So] Do not make *light* of the Lord's *discipline*, and do not *lose heart* – Hebrews 12:5 NIV

For the Lord *disciplines* those He *loves* ... as His *children*. – Hebrews 12:6 NLT

*Growing* in *every way* more and more *like Christ* – Ephesians 4:15 NLT

And those who *belong* to *Christ Jesus* have *crucified* the *flesh* – Galatians 5:24 ESV

Which doesn't *mean* it's *dead*. Yet. Hopefully it's *dying*. *Maybe* even *mostly dead*. Cuz, **the greatest act of evil in all of history was the cross.** He came to *save* His *chicks* and *cubs* from *death* and *darkness*; *deliver* us from *fear* and *sin* and *shame*; and *destroy* the *bully* from *hell*! But we *beat* Him. *Mocked* Him. And *crucified* Him. And *yet*, by His *design*, that *very act* became the *very thing* that became the *means* of His *cleansing* and *conquering* and *crushing*.

For the *weapons* of our *warfare* are *not* of the *flesh* but have *divine power* to *destroy* *strongholds*. ... [So] [we] take *every thought* *captive* to *obey Christ* – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ESV

The *mighty Son* of *Man*, our *Hero*, who only *echoes* what He'd *foretold*, when *comparing* His *suffering* (before His *resurrection*, and our *rebirth*) to the *joyful anguish* of a *mother* giving *birth*.

[For] The Lord shall go forth like a *mighty man* ... He shall *prevail* against His *enemies*. ... "Now *I will cry* like a *woman in labor*, I will *pant* and *gasp* at *once*." – Isaiah 42:13-14 NKJ



"When a woman is *giving birth* [Jesus said] ... *her hour* has *come*, [and it's *not gentle or passive*; it's *ferocious*] but when she has *delivered* the *baby*, she *no longer* remembers the *anguish*, for *joy* that a *human being* has been *born* into the *world*. ... and *no one* will *take* your *joy* from *you*." – John 16:21-22 ESV

"Do I *bring* to the moment of *birth* and *not* give *delivery*?" says the Lord. – Isaiah 66:9 NIV

There's a *spirit* in *godly mothers* that just *won't quit*. **You moms may not see it, but the enemy sure feels it.** Cuz he *counts* on *fatigue*. But **when that cowardly lion tries to crush you, and it only serves to weaponize the lioness within you, something evil and unseen says, "Uh-oh." POW!**

Cuz, *what* do we *call* a *holy bully* who *pushes back* on *darkness* and *won't* let *evil* win?

In a *movie*, it's a *hero*. In *Scripture*, He's our *Savior*. And in the *home*, her *kids* call her *mom*. And, to every *anguished Wonder Woman*, the Lord would likely say: **Keep standing – you're crushing it!**