

# Job 37:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places.

## Analysis

**Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places** (watabo hayah bi-m'onah u-vim'onoteyha tishkon, וַיַּעֲשֵׂנִי תְּשַׁקְּנֵה בְּמָעָנוֹתָה וּבְמָעָנוֹתָה)—The verb shakan (שָׁקַן) means to dwell or abide, the same root as Shekinah, God's dwelling presence. Even wild animals practice seasonal Sabbath, 'dwelling' in hibernation shelters. The noun me'onah (מָעָנוֹתָה) denotes a habitation or refuge.

Elihu observes that instinct-driven animals obey divine weather-signals without rebellion, while rational Job questions God's governance. The rebuke is implicit: if beasts accept their creaturely limits and seek shelter when storms come, shouldn't humans trust God's wisdom in life's winters? This anticipates Jesus pointing to ravens and lilies as teachers of faith (Luke 12:24-27).

## Historical Context

Ancient observers noted animal hibernation without understanding its biological mechanisms, interpreting it as evidence of God-given wisdom in creation. Proverbs 30:24-28 likewise marvels at small creatures' instinctive wisdom, seeing it as pointing beyond itself to the Creator's design.

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What can you learn from animals who accept seasonal limitations without questioning God's purposes?
2. When has your rational mind prevented you from seeking God as your refuge in life's storms, unlike instinct-driven creatures?
3. How does hibernation serve as a metaphor for spiritual seasons where God calls you to withdraw and rest in Him?

## Interlinear Text

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תָשַׁׁקְנָה וּבְתָּהָרָה וְנִמְתָּחָה יְהִי אֶתְבָּבָה וְאֶתְבָּבָה  
go Then the beasts into dens in their places and remain  
H935 H2416 H1119 H695 H4585 H7931

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 104:22** (Parallel theme): The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

**Job 38:40** (Parallel theme): When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?

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