

Job 38:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?

Analysis

"Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?" God asks whether natural phenomena have human-like parentage. The Hebrew holid (הָלִיד, "beget/father") uses procreation language for rain and dew. The answer is clear—only God generates these. This challenges pagan mythologies that personified natural forces as deities or divine offspring. Rain and dew aren't autonomous beings but God's direct provision. The question teaches that acknowledging God as source of all blessing is foundational to right theology and worship.

Historical Context

Baal worship in Canaan centered on a storm/fertility god supposedly controlling rain. God's question demolishes such idolatry—Baal doesn't "father" rain; Yahweh creates it by decree. This would call Israel away from syncretistic tendencies toward pure monotheism and exclusive worship of the Creator.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What modern "baals" do people credit for provision that actually comes from God alone?
2. How does recognizing God as the source of every blessing affect our gratitude and worship?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי אָבִיךָ רַבָּתְךָ תִּשְׁאַל
Hath the rain a father H176 H4310 or who hath begotten H3205 the drops H96 of dew H2919

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 14:22 (Parallel theme): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

Psalms 147:8 (Parallel theme): Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.

Job 29:19 (Parallel theme): My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.

Job 38:8 (Parallel theme): Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

Proverbs 3:20 (Parallel theme): By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Jeremiah 10:13 (Parallel theme): When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Jeremiah 5:24 (Parallel theme): Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

Matthew 5:45 (Parallel theme): That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Genesis 27:39 (Parallel theme): And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

Genesis 27:28 (Parallel theme): Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org