

Job 38:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

Analysis

God challenges Job with astronomical phenomena beyond human control. 'Mazzaroth' (mazzarot, מְזָרֹת) likely refers to the constellations or zodiac in their seasons, though the exact meaning is debated. 'Arcturus with his sons' refers to the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear) with its associated stars. The verbs 'bring forth' (yatsa, יָצָא) and 'guide' (nachah, נָחַת) emphasize active direction and leading, asking whether Job can command the heavenly bodies to appear and move according to divine schedule. This verse reveals God's governance of celestial mechanics with implications for His sovereignty over time itself—seasons, years, and ages all move at His command. The stars that ancient cultures worshiped as deities are merely obedient servants of Yahweh. This cosmic perspective humbles human pretensions to wisdom while establishing that the God who controls the universe is trustworthy to govern individual lives, even when we cannot understand His purposes.

Historical Context

Ancient astronomical observation was highly developed in Mesopotamia and Egypt, where star charts and zodiacal systems were used for timekeeping, agriculture, and astrology. God's reference to these constellations asserts His authority over what pagan cultures considered divine powers. The biblical witness consistently affirms that celestial bodies are created servants, not gods (Psalm 148:3-6, Isaiah 40:26).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over the cosmos affect your confidence in His governance of your life's details?
2. What modern equivalents to ancient astrology do you trust more than God's providence?
3. How does the vastness of creation that God governs inspire both humility and trust in His care for you personally?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| בְּתַצְצֵא | מִזְרָחָה | בְּעֵת | עַל | בְּנֵי |
| Canst thou bring forth | Mazzaroth | in his season | Arcturus | with his sons |
| H3318 | H4216 | H6256 | H5906 | H1121 |
| מִזְרָחָם: | | | | |
| or canst thou guide | | | | |
| H5148 | | | | |

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