

Job 38:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,

Analysis

God transitions from meteorology to zoology, asking if Job provides food for lions. 'Hunt the prey' (tsud tsayid, צָד צָאֵד) means to chase and capture game. 'Fill the appetite' (male nephesh, מַלְא נֶפֶשׁ) literally means to satisfy the soul or life-force, emphasizing not just physical hunger but vitality. 'Young lions' (kephir, כְּפִיר) refers to strong, mature lions in their prime. This question establishes God's comprehensive provision for His creatures—even fierce predators depend entirely on divine sustenance. The lions that inspire human terror are themselves dependent on God for their next meal. This connects to Psalm 104:21, 'The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.' The verse challenges Job to recognize that if he cannot feed wild animals, he has no basis for questioning God's governance of human affairs. It also reveals God's care extends even to creatures that seem contrary to human interest.

Historical Context

Lions were common in ancient Israel and surrounding regions, posing real danger to shepherds and travelers. They represented untamed, powerful nature that humans could not control. God's provision for these feared predators demonstrated His authority over what humanity feared most, while also revealing His universal care for all creation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision for dangerous predators challenge your understanding of His care for you?
2. What 'lions' in your life—circumstances that seem threatening or opposed to God's purposes—are actually under His sovereign provision?
3. In what ways does recognizing your dependence on God's provision humble your demands for explanation?

Interlinear Text

תִּמְלָא:	כְּפִיר יְמִינְךָ וְ	לְבֵב יְאֵנֶיךָ תְּחַצֵּב וְ				
Wilt thou hunt	for the lion	the prey	the appetite	of the young lions	or fill	
H6679	H3833	H2964	H2416	H3715		H4390

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:21 (Parallel theme): The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.