

Job 38:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?

Analysis

This verse continues the lion imagery, describing their hunting behavior. 'Couch in their dens' (rabats me'onah, רָבָת מְאוֹנָה) refers to the lion's resting posture in its lair. 'Abide in the covert to lie in wait' (yashab sukkah, יָשַׁב סֻכָּה) describes patient ambush hunting from concealed positions. The verse emphasizes the lions' patient, strategic hunting—waiting for prey rather than constant action. God's question implies: who teaches lions this effective hunting strategy? Who ensures their concealment is adequate and their patience rewarded? The verse reveals divine providence in animal instinct and behavior. What appears to be natural animal wisdom is actually God's implanted design, sustained by His continuous governance. This challenges evolutionary naturalism by emphasizing that even predatory behavior serves divine purposes and reflects divine wisdom. The patience of lions in their coverts also serves as metaphor for believers waiting on God's timing (Psalm 27:14).

Historical Context

Ancient observers marveled at lions' hunting prowess and strategic intelligence. In a worldview where animals were sometimes considered divine or possessed of independent wisdom, God's question asserts that animal behavior ultimately derives from and depends upon His governance, not inherent animal divinity or independent natural law.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's governance of animal instinct inform your understanding of His guidance in human behavior and decision-making?
2. What does the lions' patient waiting teach you about trusting God's timing in your circumstances?
3. In what ways do you need to recognize God's hand in what appears to be 'natural' or automatic processes?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לִמְזָה	אָרְבָּה:	בְּסַפְּךָ הַ	יִשְׁבֵּב	וְבַמְּעוֹן וְתַ	בְּמִשְׁׁחָה	וְבְּשַׁחַד חֹזֶה	וְבְּשַׁחַד חֹזֶה
H3588	When they couch		in their dens	and abide	in the covert	to	lie in wait	

Additional Cross-References

Job 37:8 (Parallel theme): Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org