

# Job 38:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

## Analysis

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God asks: 'Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?' This poetic description of creation's boundaries (sea contained, womb imagery) reveals divine power ordering chaos. Job who questions God's governance wasn't present when God established cosmic order.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern chaos myths featured divine combat with sea monsters. God's rhetorical question asserts His sovereign containment of chaos without combat.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's mastery over chaotic seas teach about His control of your chaos?
2. How does creation's order speak to life's apparent disorder?

## Interlinear Text

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מִן־קְרֵב בְּדַלְתִּים יְמִינָה בְּגַיִחַן מִן־קְרֵב  
Or who shut up with doors the sea when it brake forth of the womb  
H5526 H1817 H3220 H1518 H7358

אָזְעָה:

as if it had issued out

H3318

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 1:9** (Parallel theme): And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

**Jeremiah 5:22** (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

**Proverbs 8:29** (Parallel theme): When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

**Psalms 33:7** (Parallel theme): He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

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